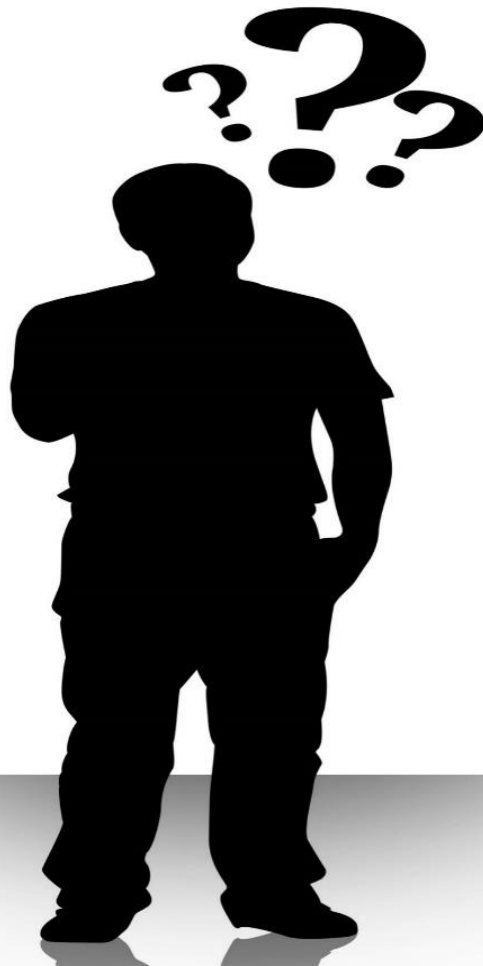


Is There Really A Heaven?



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

Is There Really A Heaven?

Learn from some evidence for the existence of Heaven and consider what you should do with this knowledge

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW143

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Is There Really A Heaven?

Is there really a Heaven that people can live in after Jesus Christ returns? This is a question that must be answered by people who are contemplating what happens after their earthly lives are over. If there is no Heaven or if everyone will go to Heaven, then it does not make any difference whether you live a life that is obedient to God or not. But, if there really is a Heaven and if only those who obey God will go there, then you must decide whether you desire to go to Heaven enough that you will live entirely in God's service.

There is some confusion on the subject of Heaven. First, there are those who deny that such a place even exists. Some do not accept the teachings of the Bible as truth and conclude that such a place does not exist. After all, it is beyond the ability of mankind to observe Heaven. We cannot reach out and touch Heaven. We cannot look at pictures of Heaven. We cannot visit Heaven to know that it exists.

Instead, we must put our complete trust in God to know that Heaven is real. Whenever you are convinced that God really does exist and that the Bible really is His word, it becomes very apparent that you can trust everything that the Bible says. And, although you cannot reach out and touch Heaven or set your eyes upon it, you can see it by faith. After all, you must recognize that Heaven is presented in the Scriptures as being a place that belongs to the spiritual realm rather than the physical realm. So, it should be obvious that physical people cannot use their physical senses to observe anything about it. Instead, we are entirely dependent upon God to tell us about what awaits those who are obedient to Him.

Second, there are those who believe that Heaven is the future home of everyone. Many have concluded that since God is a loving God, He will forgive all sins through Jesus Christ and save everyone – regardless of whether people obey Him or not. So, there are those who believe that it does not matter how you live while you are on this earth. They believe that Heaven will be your eternal home regardless.

However, although God desires to save everyone and has sent Jesus Christ to die for everyone (see John 3:16 and 1 Timothy 2:3-4), God will *not* save those who refuse to obey Him. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Certainly, Jesus did not get this wrong. He said that the majority of people will live in a way that results in destruction rather than life everlasting. Therefore, everyone will *not* go to Heaven – not even *most* people!

Third, there are those who believe that there are some who have no opportunity to go to Heaven. One way this is taught is that God will only permit 144,000 people to have the opportunity to live in Heaven. Once this number has been reached, the rest of the people will only be able to live in what they believe will be a rejuvenated earthly paradise. The Jehovah's Witnesses is one group that has promoted this false doctrine.

There are two quick points to consider regarding this doctrine. One is that the number 144,000 (taken from Revelation 7:4 and Revelation 14:1) is figurative rather than literal. The book of Revelation is full of signs and symbols and cannot be taken literally. For instance, even the Jehovah's Witnesses do not take these passages completely literal. For, if they would, they would have to conclude that the 144,000 are composed of 12,000 people from each of 12 tribes of Israel (see Revelation 7:4-8). And, if taken literally, they can only be virgin men (Revelation 14:4). Furthermore, the Bible teaches that this earth will be destroyed by fire whenever Jesus Christ returns rather than there

being an earthly paradise established (see 2 Peter 3:1-13).

Because of all this confusion in the world today and our own curiosity about the subject of Heaven, many are left wondering, “Does a place called Heaven really exist?” “If it does exist, what is it like?” “Can I go to Heaven?” “How can I go to Heaven?” “Will we all go to Heaven?”

In this lesson, we want to consider some of what God has revealed about Heaven in the pages of the Bible. We will be considering its reality as well as the description that is given of it. Then, we will consider who will be welcomed to spend eternity in Heaven on the Judgment Day. And, we will consider what all of this means for how we should be living life on earth.

The Bible Identifies Heaven As A Real Place

God’s word is absolutely perfect and true (see Psalm 19:7). Therefore, as we look into the word of God (as revealed in the pages of the Bible), we can be assured of the fact that Heaven is a real place. And, we can know that it is also a place that is prepared for real people to live there one day.

Use of “heaven” in the Bible

As you make a study of “heaven” in the pages of the Bible, you will notice that there are various things referred to as “heaven.” So, as we begin considering the Bible’s teachings on the subject, we would do well to identify these so as to avoid confusion later. Please note that the Bible talks about three heavens. For instance, 2 Corinthians 12:2 says, “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.” This is most likely a reference to the Paradise in Heaven where God dwells (although it *could* have reference to the Paradise of the Hadean realm, see Luke 23:43).

The first heaven used in the Scriptures is in reference to the atmospheric heaven. This is the area in which the birds fly. For instance, Genesis 1:20 says, “Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.’”

The second heaven used in the Scriptures is in reference to the celestial heavens. This is outer space. For instance, Genesis 1:14-15 says, “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so.”

The third Heaven used in the Scriptures is in reference to the dwelling place of God. This place is the one that we are focused on establishing throughout the course of this lesson. Unlike the other two heavens (which are physical in nature), this third Heaven is spiritual in nature. There are many passages in the Scriptures that present God as dwelling in this third Heaven.

Matthew 5:16 says, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” In Matthew 6:9, Jesus taught that people should pray, “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.” Romans 1:18 says, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” Then, Hebrews 8:1-2 pictures Jesus as being in Heaven with the Father, “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”

Revelation 4 pictures God in Heaven in vivid detail (though it is figurative imagery). The apostle John was given the opportunity “in the Spirit” to look through “a door standing open in Heaven” (verse 1). And, “behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And he who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an

emerald” (verses 2-3). The picture goes on to identify 24 elders sitting on thrones, lightnings, thunderings, and voices coming from the throne of God. Seven lamps of fire burning before the throne. A sea of glass like crystal before the throne. And, four living creatures before the throne of God. These living creatures and the 24 elders are then pictured as falling down before the throne of God to worship Him!

Promises that some will live in Heaven

This third Heaven is the dwelling place of God that is continually pictured in the Scriptures (note that we have only observed a few of the many possible references to such). But, not only do the Scriptures picture God as being in this Heaven, but they also teach us that we have been given the opportunity to spend eternity in this same place and live with God after Jesus Christ returns. Consider four passages.

First, consider John 14:2-3. Jesus promised that in His “Father’s house are many mansions” and that He has gone “to prepare a place for you.” Then, Jesus states, “if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am there you may be also.” Therefore, Jesus has promised that people would have the opportunity to live in the Heavenly home He was going to prepare.

Second, consider 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” So, Jesus will come out of Heaven to collect His faithful people and take them back to Heaven to “always” be with Him.

Third, consider 1 Peter 1:4 says that some have the hope of “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven.” Notice the location of this inheritance (though we will focus on who will receive this inheritance and what is involved in this inheritance later in the lesson). It is in Heaven!

Fourth, consider Revelation 21:3. When the apostle John is recording his picture of the Heavenly city (referred to as a new heaven and new earth, the holy city, and New Jerusalem, see verse 1), he says, “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’” Later, the picture of this place continues by saying that “the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him” (Revelation 22:3). Then, Revelation 22:5 says, “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”

Description Of Heaven

Clearly, God has promised to give people the opportunity to live eternally with Him in Heaven. Now, as further proof that Heaven really does exist, the Bible describes this place for us. Consider a sample of how the Bible describes this truly magnificent place where God dwells and where we can live together with God one day.

Romans 8:18

After saying that those who are Christians are children of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ who will be glorified with Christ – if they suffer with Christ (Romans 8:16-17), Paul says that the sufferings involved in living a Christian life will be well worth it! Romans 8:18 says, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

The grandeur of Heaven is such that even the most severe earthly punishments and sufferings are worth enduring in order to have Heaven as your eternal home! In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Paul made it clear that the earthly sufferings he experienced while he was living were only “light” and momentary afflictions – when he compared them to the glory of eternity in Heaven! 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 helps us to understand what sorts of things were included in

this “light” and momentary affliction: Shipwreck, perils of all sorts, beatings, hunger and thirst, sleeplessness, imprisonments, stoning, etc. Heaven is so great that it is worth enduring the worst physical punishments to inherit (even if it means dying for Christ)!

Those who live their lives for the Lord (even though it may result in suffering now) will experience “rest” throughout eternity! Revelation 14:13 says, “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

John 14:2-3

In John 14:2-3, Jesus said: “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

As Jesus was preparing for His death and eventual ascension back into Heaven, He promised His disciples that He would return and bring them into the place He was soon going (Heaven). Consider what Jesus tells us about this place in this passage.

First, He tells us that Heaven is like dwelling in His Father’s house – one that has many “mansions” (or, dwelling places). Second, He tells us that those who are His disciples will have an opportunity to live in this place when He returns. Third, He tells us that Heaven is a place prepared by Himself for His people. Fourth, He tells us that we will be living in Heaven with Him. Just imagine the glory of being in the dwelling place of the Almighty God for all of eternity, which He has prepared for those who are His people!

Matthew 25:46

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus gives us a picture of what the Judgment Day will be like. In this passage, He tells of how He will separate all people who have ever lived like a shepherd divides His sheep from the goats. Those on His left hand represent those who were unfaithful to Him during

their lives on the earth. Those on His right hand represent those who were faithful to Him during their lives on the earth. As He concludes this Judgment scene, He says, “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 25:46).

Therefore, the righteous (faithful) will be given “eternal life.” The Scriptures help us to see that this eternal life is in Heaven. Now consider what the phrase “eternal life” helps us to understand about Heaven.

First, it is life. Now, this cannot be physical life – because this Judgment takes place after death (Hebrews 9:27) and after this world is destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:10-14). Instead, this is spiritual life! This “life” is contrasted with the spiritual “death” and “punishment” awaiting many in Hell (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 21:8). Revelation 2:11 tells us that those who overcome and are faithful to the Lord until their physical deaths will “not be hurt by the second death.” Those who are faithful to the Lord will have spiritual “life” because they will forever be in the presence of God (the Giver and Sustainer of life), whereas those who are not faithful to the Lord will have spiritual “death” because they will forever be separated from the presence of this God! Second, notice that this life is eternal. So, this “life” that comes from being in the presence of God is *never-ending!*

1 Peter 1:3-5

In 1 Peter 1:3-9, Peter gives great encouragement to Christians who were going through difficult circumstances due to their faith in the Lord. Specifically, I want you to consider the “living hope” Peter describes in verses 3-5: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

First, notice that the “living hope” Peter describes is “reserved in heaven” for those who are

faithful to Him. Then, notice that Peter describes Heaven as an “inheritance.” Consider that an inheritance is something that someone gives to another (often to a relative). Similarly, the inheritance God will give to His children is this eternal home in Heaven.

But, unlike any earthly inheritance we may receive (that are temporary and perishable), the inheritance God will give to His children is an inheritance that is “incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away”! Just as God is eternal, the inheritance He will give to His children will last forever! This is why Jesus instructs us to store up treasures in Heaven instead of storing up treasures on earth during our lifetimes (see Matthew 6:19-21).

Revelation 21-22

As I have already mentioned, the book of Revelation is a book of prophecy that uses vivid signs and symbols to convey its message. The primary message of the book is one that foretells the great suffering that early Christians would experience at the hand of the Roman Empire – and the great spiritual victory that those who are faithful to the Lord until death will experience. As the book closes in chapters 21 and 22, Heaven (the future home of the faithful) is described. Perhaps we learn more about this place in this passage than we do in any other one passage of Scripture. However, as you read these two chapters, remember that the language is symbolic – and must not be taken literally.

As you read these two chapters, you notice the beauty of Heaven that is described. As you consider these vivid symbolic descriptions, it is well identified as the “Paradise of God” in Revelation 2:7! Her beauty is described as the beauty of “a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:2). Heaven is described in the text as: Having the “glory of God” (21:11), having a light like a precious jasper stone that is clear as crystal (21:11), having a great and high wall with twelve gates and twelve angels at the gates (21:12), and having twelve foundations with the names of the twelve apostles on them (21:14). It is said to be laid out as a cube – 12,000 furlongs (about 1,500 miles) in each direction (length, width, and height) (21:16). The wall around the Heavenly city was measured to be 144 cubits high (about 218

feet) (21:17). The wall is said to be constructed with jasper and the city was pure gold, like clear glass (21:18). Each of the twelve foundations of the wall are said to be made with a precious stone (i.e. jasper, sapphire, emerald, etc.) (21:19-20). The twelve gates are said each to be a pearl (21:21). The street in the city is said to be of pure gold, like transparent glass (21:21). While all of these descriptions are only figurative, they present a glorious picture to our minds of Heaven’s great beauty!

Not only will there be great beauty in Heaven, but, those who are in Heaven will not experience any sorrow, suffering, or death of any kind. Revelation 21:4 says, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

In addition to there being no sufferings in Heaven, there will also be no evil or sin. Revelation 21:27 says, “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.” All those who die in their sins will be “outside” the city (see Revelation 22:15).

All of these descriptions of Heaven are wonderful! However, as we have seen, the best part of Heaven is that God’s people will be with Him throughout eternity! Revelation 21:3 says that God will dwell with His people in this place. Revelation 21:22-23 says that Heaven will need no temple because “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple” – and that the city will have no need of sun or moon to shine because God’s glory will illuminate it! Additionally Revelation 22:1-5 describes a pure river of water of life (clear as crystal) coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb and going through the city and watering the Tree of Life.

Who Will Go To Heaven

Heaven is described in the Scriptures as being a beautiful place that is free from all pain, suffering, and death (Revelation 21-22). And, best of all,

Heaven is a place in which some will spend eternity with God (John 14:2-3)! But, who will go to Heaven? If you have a desire to spend your eternity in Heaven, you need to ask this question – and find the Bible answer. Let’s consider how the Bible answers this question.

How to go to Heaven

There are really only two ways to go to Heaven. Either you must live a sinless life *or* you must be obedient to God’s plan of salvation (we’ll talk about each one momentarily). However, both of these two ways have the common denominator of sin!

Sin is what causes a separation between us and God. Consider what the Scriptures teach in Isaiah 59:1-2: “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.” Since God is entirely holy (Revelation 4:8), our unrighteousness creates a spiritual separation between us and God.

1 John 1:5 informs us that “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” That is, God is completely pure and holy – and possesses **zero** amount of evil in Him! Therefore, 1 John 1:6-7 helps us to understand that we cannot walk in the ways of darkness (sin) and still be in fellowship with this pure and holy God! Remember, nothing evil will exist in Heaven (Revelation 21:27 and Revelation 22:14-15). So, we must either never sin or be forgiven of our sins to go to Heaven.

The sinless will go to Heaven

Those who have never sinned have never separated themselves from God or earned the eternal punishment in Hell that is awaiting those who die in their sins! But, who has lived a sinless life?

The Scriptures clearly indicate that those who have not reached an age of personal accountability have not sinned. Regarding an age of personal accountability, I am simply referring to a point at which an individual knows right from wrong and has the mental ability to choose for himself/herself (see

Deuteronomy 1:39). For instance, infants, young children, and some with mental handicaps have not reached an age of personal accountability. Therefore, they have ***not*** sinned against God. Other than these (and Jesus Christ, see Hebrews 4:15), everyone who has ever lived has committed sin. Thus, in Romans 3:23, Paul states: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

The obedient will go to Heaven

Those who have not sinned (i.e. infants, young children) will go to Heaven after they die. However, in order for those who have committed sin to go to Heaven, they were in need of God to save them from their sins. Thanks be to God that He has provided a sacrifice through which we can escape the punishment we deserve for sinning (eternal punishment in Hell) and receive eternal life in Heaven!

Jesus Christ gave Himself to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world! John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Thus, through Jesus’ sinless life on this earth, His death on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection, we can have our sins forgiven and have the hope of living in Heaven for all of eternity! Romans 6:23 helps us to understand how we have been saved from the consequences of our sins through Jesus Christ: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So, Jesus has died for the entire world (everyone who has ever lived or will ever live). Titus 2:11 says that this grace (undeserved favor) of God (in giving us the opportunity to be saved from our sins and live eternally in Heaven) has appeared to all men! Yet, Jesus Himself taught that most people who live on this earth will *not* go to Heaven (Matthew 7:13-14)! Therefore, we must conclude that God has required something from us in order to be saved by His grace!

The Scriptures are quite clear that this is the case. Consider what Hebrews 5:9 says: “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” Jesus Christ is the

“author of eternal salvation.” However, He will *not* automatically save everyone who has ever lived or will ever live. The passage clearly states that He is only the “author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” Therefore, we must keep God’s commandments (as revealed in the Bible) if we desire to have eternal life in Heaven!

What, then, must we do in order to be saved and live eternally with God in Heaven? Let’s briefly consider what God tells us to do in order to be saved.

(1) Hear His word. Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” We simply cannot develop saving faith without hearing the word of God. We must hear about who God is, the nature of sin, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the gospel’s plan of salvation in order to be obedient to God and be saved!

(2) Believe. In John 8:24, Jesus said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” We must believe in God and believe that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God who lived on earth, gave His life on the cross, was buried in a tomb, and rose from the dead if we want to be saved. However, simply accepting these facts *mentally* is not enough! We must do the things God has commanded (see Matthew 7:21-23 and James 2:14-26).

(3) Repent. Acts 17:30 says, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” Repentance is a change of mind regarding the sinful things you’ve done in the past – turning your life away from those things and turning to Jesus Christ. In repentance, you make the determination to live for the Lord and give up sinful things.

(4) Confess Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” The confession that is required in order to be forgiven of your sins and become a Christian is *not* a confession of your sins. Instead, it is a confession of your faith in Jesus Christ (see Acts 8:37).

(5) Be baptized. In Mark 16:16, Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” Peter said baptism was for the remission of sins in Acts 2:38. Peter wrote that baptism now saves us in 1 Peter 3:20-21. Paul (then called Saul) was told to be baptized in order to have his sins washed away, in Acts 22:16. So, we must be baptized in order to be saved and have our sins forgiven. Then, also notice that baptism, according to the Bible, is only accomplished by full immersion in water (see Acts 8:38-39, Romans 6:3-4, and Colossians 2:12).

(6) Remain faithful. Upon sincerely obeying these commandments, we have our sins forgiven, become Christians, and are added to Christ’s church (the collection of the saved). However, we are commanded to be “faithful until death” in order to have the “crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). Therefore, we must continue to keep God’s commandments throughout our lives in order to be saved eternally.

Living With The Reality Of Heaven

Because God is a loving God, He has given all mankind the opportunity to be saved from their sins and live eternally in Heaven through Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11). However, in order to go to this beautiful Paradise in Heaven, you must live a faithful life of service to Jesus Christ. Those whose physical lives end while living in sin will be sentenced to everlasting punishment in Hell fire instead of being rewarded with eternal life in Heaven. So, please consider how you should respond to the reality of Heaven.

Be thankful for your opportunity to go there

As we established earlier in this lesson, you have sinned (as long as you have reached the age of personal accountability). By yourself, you do not deserve to go to Heaven. Instead, you deserve eternal death (separation from God, see Romans 6:23). You

cannot even do enough good works to deserve a home in Heaven after you have sinned. Instead, you are completely dependent upon the grace of God to give you the opportunity to be saved (see Ephesians 2:8-9). Now, you must not take this opportunity to be saved for granted. Be thankful for this opportunity and determine to live your life to take full advantage of it so that you can be saved!

Eagerly desire to go there

Heaven is far better than anything this earthly life can provide. Even when life on this earth is the best that it can possibly be, there are still people dying, there are still people getting sick, there is still the knowledge that you will die, there are still injuries that happen, there are still people who hurt others in many different ways, and so many other things. Yet, none of this will happen in Heaven (see Revelation 21:4)! So, you should have a deep longing for Heaven while you live on this earth. For instance, 2 Peter 3:12 says that God's people should be "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God." Verse 13 says that we "look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." Nothing on earth can compare with the joy and beauty of Heaven!

Fully devote yourself to serving Jesus Christ

Recognizing your great opportunity to spend eternity with God in Heaven, you should completely devote yourself to serving God so that you will be given Heaven as your eternal home. In Matthew 13:44, Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." At your opportunity to spend eternity in Heaven, you should determine to make every sacrifice necessary in order to be obedient to God (even if it means denying yourself of physical pleasures and desires)! For, if you miss Heaven, you will have missed it all! Jesus said, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

Conclusion

Yes, there really is a Heaven! God lives in Heaven currently. And, He promises that those who will be obedient to Him will also live in Heaven for all of eternity. Heaven is a place that is so beautiful and magnificent that we (as human beings) cannot even begin to fully comprehend it. We must simply accept (by faith) what God has revealed about Heaven and make every sacrifice necessary in order to have Heaven as our eternal homes! But, will you choose to believe in Heaven so much that you will fully dedicate your life to serving God?

Study Questions

What are some beliefs about Heaven?

1. The Bible Identifies Heaven As A Real Place

How many "heavens" are there in the Bible? What are these?

Does God promise that some will live in Heaven?

2. Description Of Heaven

How does Romans 8:18 describe Heaven?

How does John 14:2-3 describe Heaven?

How does Matthew 25:46 describe Heaven?

How does 1 Peter 1:3-5 describe Heaven?

How does Revelation 21-22 describe Heaven?

3. Who Will Go To Heaven

How does sin impact one's ability to go to Heaven?

Why will the sinless go to Heaven? Who are sinless?

How has God given sinners the opportunity to go to Heaven? What does He require people to do in order to go to Heaven?

4. Living With The Reality Of Heaven

Why should you be thankful for your opportunity to go to Heaven?

Why should you eagerly desire to go to Heaven?

Why should you fully devote your life to serving Jesus Christ?