

Why I Want To Go To Heaven!

Franklin Church of Christ
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PM Assembly

Introduction:

You already know I do not want to go to hell. I do not want to go to hell because I will be separate from God, it will be absolute torment and it will continue eternally. I am highly motivated to obey God simply because I am absolutely terrified of being in hell. But that is not my only motivation for serving the Lord and preparing for His return. Separate and apart from my desire to stay out of hell, I do want to go to heaven. Allow me to explain why.

Discussion:

- I. I want to go to heaven to be in the presence of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - A. In **John 14:2-3**, Jesus said the reward reserved for the faithful is in His Father's house. When we go to heaven, we will be in God's house, God's dwelling place. We will be there with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - B. In **Revelation 4:1**, John was, in a vision, taken into heaven. There he saw the Father on the throne (**4:2; 5:1,13**). He saw the Lamb, that is Christ the Son (**5:5-6, 8-10, 12-13**). He saw the Holy Spirit (**4:5; 5:6**).
 - C. Today we are awestruck when we see friends who have had pictures made with sports stars, musicians or bands, actors or actresses and even some politicians. We think it must have been amazing just to see them and be there with them. And, frankly, we are little envious. But imagine all eternity with the greatest, most awesome power in the universe. No wonder Moses asked God, "I pray Thee, show me Thy glory" (**Exodus 33:18**). But God could not show His full glory, because no one can see God's face and live (**Exodus 33:20**). But we will spend all eternity in the presence of that glory. I want to go there.

- II. I want to go to heaven because I will then be in an imperishable, immortal body.
 - A. I am only 33 years old. But already I am recognizing I live in a perishable body. First, I am acquainted with death and have already come to grips with its inevitable nature. What I am struggling with is the back and knee pains that grow worse every year. I know compared to others, my pains are minor and yet I know that my body is deteriorating. And I cannot do anything to keep it from happening. The Preacher in **Ecclesiastes** provides a word picture of aging in **Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:6**. All of this is happening to me. None of us can stop it, no matter how hard we try.
 - B. In addition to our body's deterioration, we are pained as we see the deterioration of others. We watch loved ones waste away. We live for years without those we love because their bodies have already given out. We see the pain and sickness that besets even our children.
 - C. But in heaven, we will not have these kinds of bodies. **I Corinthians 15:42-44, 53-54** explains the difference between our present bodies and our coming heavenly bodies. Now we live in earthly, perishable, mortal, dishonorable, weak bodies. But we will be raised or translated in the twinkling of an eye into heavenly, imperishable, immortal, glorious, powerful bodies. We will no longer see sickness or tragedy. We will never grow old and never die. I want to go there.

- III. I want to go to heaven because righteousness dwells there.
 - A. In the beginning, God created a perfect world. He placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Even then, Satan was a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He tempted Adam and Adam sinned bringing sin into the world (**Romans 5:12**).
 - B. Since that time, sin has spread and continues to grow in our world. Its effects are devastating, bringing about the ruin of lives, families, communities and even nations. Not a day goes by that I am not tempted to sin. Too many times, I have submitted. Some days are better than others. But, nevertheless, I live in an unrighteous world and I have followed along with it too many times. I am tired of these temptations and sins that constantly bombard me. I am looking for and ready for heaven, where there is no sin and there is no temptation. I am looking for the new heavens and new earth of which Peter spoke in **II Peter 3:13**, in which righteousness dwells.
 - C. In heaven, there is righteousness and only righteousness. I want to go there.

- IV. I want to go to heaven because then I will be like Christ.
- A. My goal in life is to be Christ-like. I am thankful that God has not left us alone in this, but has promised that all who love Him will be conformed to the image of Jesus (**Romans 8:28-29**).
 - B. The ultimate accomplishment of that is not going to take place here in this life. But in heaven, I will be like Christ. John explains that in **I John 3:2**. Granted, this is not fully explained and even John, the apostle, claimed he did not fully know what we will be like. But we will be like Christ. To me that is amazing. I want to be like Christ. I want to go to heaven.
- V. I want to go to heaven because then I will be able to rejoice with exultation.
- A. While in this life, I have found happiness to come through godliness and contentment, just as the Bible teaches. I have learned that trusting God provides greater happiness than striving for things. But even in all of that, there are still times of sadness because of the way our life is.
 - B. The sickness and death in this world sadden me. The unfaithfulness to God of so many saddens me. The persecution and mocking we receive from others saddens me. All of these things impede on the happiness I feel in Christ.
 - C. But in heaven, there is rejoicing. As already mentioned, none of the sad things that beset us here will trouble us there. I think of Peter's statement in the context of dealing with persecution in **I Peter 4:12-13**. He encourages us to keep rejoicing no matter what suffering and persecution we face. Why? Because in the day Jesus is revealed in glory I will be able to rejoice with exultation. The weight that has been holding me back will be removed and I will be able to rejoice in Christ as I never have. I look forward to that day and I want to go to heaven.
- VI. I want to go to heaven because then I will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."
- A. Perhaps this fits me more than many people. I am an "affirming words" person. That is, I feel loved when people give me affirming words. When I receive the "attaboys" and compliments, I am boosted. Especially when someone to whom I look up speaks affirming words, I am filled with joy. I practically lived to hear my dad say that he was proud of me.
 - B. The Bible is filled with the compliments of God that I want to hear. I know, I will never deserve any of them. But He has promised to supply them when I submit to Christ. I want to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (**Matthew 25:21**). I want to hear, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father ..." (**Matthew 25:34**). I want to hear, "I am not ashamed to be called your God" (**Hebrews 11:16**). This is what I will hear, from God, in heaven. I want to go there.
- VII. I want to go to heaven because then God will entrust me with true riches.
- A. I am amazed at the blessings with which God has entrusted me here in this life. I make a good living. I have a wonderful wife. I have three (almost four) of the greatest kids in the world. I have a nice house. I drive nice cars. I wear good clothes. I have great friends and a great spiritual family. I thank God that He has looked down upon my pitiful self and seen fit to entrust all this too me. However, I am well aware that all of these things are not the true riches.
 - B. In **Matthew 25:14-30**, a parable of judgment, the master granted greater stewardships to those who served faithfully. In **Luke 16:10-12**, another parable of stewardship and judgment, Jesus proclaims that when we have been faithful in a few things, God will grant us many things. If we are faithful stewards of unrighteous riches, He will entrust us with true riches. When we are faithful in what is another's, He will give us what is our own. In all honesty, I do not know what the many, the true riches, or that which is my own will be. But I want to gain God's trust, found faithful in what He has given me here, so I can be entrusted with greater things. That is what awaits us in heaven. I want to go there.

Conclusion:

I remember in college, a friend asking me what heaven would be like. I hadn't thought about it much and simply said there would be praising and worshipping God. She said, and I am amazed at her honesty, "I don't think I want to go there. I mean, I don't want to do that here. Why would I want to do it for eternity." My response was simply, "Well, it beats the alternative." Forgive my shallowness, I was only 18. While in a very real sense, I do want to go to heaven because it does beat the alternative. That is not the real reason. I want to go to heaven because I cannot even fathom the joy that will come with being there. I want to go to heaven. And I want you to come with me. Are you ready to go to heaven?