

Heaven, The Party That Goes on Forever

Lesson 12

Becoming a Generous Church

February 26, 2012

Almost everyone is convinced that they are going to heaven someday. But Jesus cautioned us about making such an assumption when he told his disciples, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons, and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Mt. 7.21-23).

We won’t get into heaven just because that’s the place we want to go. We won’t get into heaven because we’re a good person or because we’re religious and we go to church. There is only one way to get into heaven and that is by—

- Acknowledging that we want to do things our way rather than God’s way. In fact, we’ve made that choice many times.
- We get to heaven by acknowledging that the Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death (physical, spiritual and eternal) and that there’s no way to get to heaven except by turning from our sin and becoming a believer in and follower of Jesus Christ.
- We do this by simply praying, “God I know that I am a sinner, that there is nothing I can do to save myself. But I believe your divine Son, Jesus Christ, came to earth, lived a perfect, sin free life, and died on the cross in my place for my sins. I believe that he physically rose from the grave on the third day after his crucifixion so you could forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life.
- Pray a simple, heartfelt prayer, “God, I come to you turning from my sins and inviting Jesus into my heart and life as my personal Lord and Savior. Please send the Holy Spirit into my heart and make me a new creation in Jesus Christ. I thank you for doing this in the name of Jesus.”
- If God has spoken to you and you have prayed this prayer please email us at <http://www.churchatthemall.com/make-a-decision/> and let us know so we can send you material that will help you get started in your new life in Christ.

John describes what heaven will be like for us in Revelation 21 & 22

- There is **no temple in the city**, “I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord Almighty and the Lamb are its temple” (Rev. 21.22).

- “The city **does not need the sun or the moon** to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp” (Rev. 21.23).
- “There will be **no more night**. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light” (Rev. 22.5).
- **There will be no sea** (Rev. 21.1).
- “**Nothing impure will ever enter it**, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Rev. 21.27).
- There will be **no more tears** (Rev. 21.4).
- There will be **no more death, or mourning or crying or pain**, for the old order of things has passed away” (Rev. 21.4).
- Some people believe that heaven will be a never ending, eternal retirement, perhaps with little to do. There is no indication of this in the Bible. In fact, just the opposite is true.
- We read in Revelation 22.3, “his servants will serve him.” This may trouble some people but it’s only because they don’t understand that the “curse” associated with work has been removed (Gen. 3.17). We will no longer grow weary and become physically tired. We will no longer become frustrated by the work we do. We will no longer have to wrestle with or endure people who are making our work more difficult than it should be.

❖ What will make heaven unimaginably wonderful and joyful—

- We will never be tempted by Satan to sin (Rev. 20.10).
- We will never be hurt or harmed by anyone else’s sin (Rev. 21.27).
- There will be no more death, mourning, crying or pain (Rev. 21.4).
- Imagine what it will be like to live forever and never feel again feel the slightest pain.
- Imagine living forever and never making a single decision or doing a single thing that you will ever regret.
- Imagine living in an environment in which there is only love. No matter who you meet or how many you meet you’ll never again have to deal with anger, rage, bitterness or jealousy. This is what heaven will be like.