

December 08, 2024

Various Scriptures

John 17:20-26, in Jesus High Priestly prayer, in V24, Jesus prays for the elect, you and me. He prays, "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." The elect are those who have humbly acknowledged their sin and put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord. They have come to Christ through faith (Eph. 2:8-9).

>The heaven where Christ is now is a transitional heaven waiting for the day when all the lost are judged and the current heaven is melted down and recreated, 1 Cor. 15:24, 2 Pet. 3:11-13, Rev. 21: 1-9. No more sin and death (V4).

The benefits of studying about heaven right now: 1) **Heaven** is the hope of the redeemed. Teaching encourages us to keep going. 2) **Heaven** is a launching point for the next age (Rev. 19). 3) **Heaven** is our hope of relief. 4) **Heaven** is the completion of my salvation -fully finished. 5) **Heaven** is the proper perspective needed in suffering (Col. 3:1-4). 6) **Heaven** is certainty of life after death.

Introduction of Heaven Series: 1) Never put hope in man's version of heaven or travel and return after an experience. 2) Series not meant to give false hope because not everyone is going there. Jesus says few, not many (Matt. 7:13-14). 3) What is meant of heaven as a place? Paul in 2 Cor. 12:2 speaks of going to the 3rd heaven. In simple terms the 1st heaven is the air the birds fly in. The 2nd heaven is the area where the sun, moon, and stars are. The 3rd heaven is where God is (Col. 1:5). The Gospel is connected to heavenly hope. Access to heaven is only through Christ, John 14:6. Jesus is the way to the Father.

What will heaven be like? 5 Comforts to Put Our Minds at Ease:

1. **Immediate Entrance into Heaven:** 2 Cor. 4: 16-17, our inner man is being renewed even in affliction we endure. V18, we look for the unseen eternal things. Chapter 5:1, our earthly tent (body) will be replaced with a new body, considered more permanent being called a "building," and a "house," and "eternal."
 - a. In Revelation 6:11, those killed in the Tribulation are given a white robe to wear.
 - b. Believers long to have a dwelling (body), V2. Having this clothing we will not be naked, V3. V5-8, being absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.
 - c. Heb. 13:14, refers to a city that is to come.
 - d. How fast are angels? In Gen. 28:12, Jacob saw them going and down like on a ladder.
2. **Total Peace:** Rev. 7:16, no hunger, no thirst, no more tears (V17). Pain and trials in this world will be gone. Paul knew it was better to be with Christ, but labored while still able, Phil. 1:23.
3. **Loving Explanations:** Rev. 7:17, Jesus will shepherd, comfort them, and care for them always. Ps. 16:11, in His right hand are pleasures forever.
4. **Familiar Homecoming:** Heb. 11:14-16, God has prepared a city for His people. A prepared city and homeland, a country, a home. 2 Cor. 5:8, "be at home with the Lord."
5. **Christ's Surprises:** John 17:24, "desire" is a yearning, a want, to be with Him. Jesus desires to show us the glory (all the glories) of heaven that He has made. John 14:1-3, there is a place prepared for me. Not Jesus constructing new builds. This is not the final heaven of Rev. 21
 - a. **What is Jesus getting ready:** 1) **Rewards:** or crowns, Rev. 4:10, 1 Cor. 3:13, Luke 19 (Minas). 2) **Banquet:** the marriage supper of the Lamb, Rev. 19:6-7. 3) **Jesus Himself:** He is the host in all of His glory, Rev. 1:14-16. Rom. 8:16-17 tells us that we God's children and heirs with Christ, heaven is truly our home too!

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Further Discussion and Application

In Colossians 1: 9-14, what is Paul's hope for the church in Colosse (and by extension for us)? In Col. 1:22, there is a wonderful hope of our introduction into the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How does God keep His people rooted and grounded in Him? What hope does He impart through His word? What strength does He give us to help us on our way? How does the body of Christ help encourage us along the road of life?

Hebrews 12:5-11 gives the purpose for being disciplined by the Lord. It is because of His love, V6. It is for our holiness, V10. It also yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness, V11. The believer learns to embrace the correcting of the Lord because it is a truly gracious act of love. What have you learned as you have been disciplined by the Lord? How did that process sanctify you and become a lifelong lesson that guides you to this day? What lessons were hard to learn? Which ones were easier?

We are being prepared to be in the presence of the Lord. Heb. 12:22-24 gives us our final destination. Why is our discipline, holiness, and righteousness so needed in our lives? What is the discipline preparing us for? Because of Heb. 12:29, why is God's love (discipline) such a mercy for us? How can you show thankfulness and gratefulness for how God is preparing you for that Day?

Why must we get the proclamation of the Gospel correct? Why is Paul's assurance of the Gospel's power in Romans 1:16-17 our hope when speaking to relatives and those who we share the Gospel with? What is the result for us of getting the Gospel right (obedience)? What glory does it bring to God when we share the Gospel with others? When we think about what Jesus has prepared for us, how does it spur us on to continue serving Him?