

## **Do You Want To Get To Heaven?**

Sermon, November 1, 2020 – All Saints Sunday

**Scripture reading:** Revelation 7: 9-17 & 21:1-7

**Golden verse:** “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14)

You are invited to watch the following video “Proof of Heaven”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GsoQRqnvV4>

Dear beloved,

There is heaven. This is one of the most amazing messages I can share with you today. There is heaven. The main question is not “WHERE IS HEAVEN”. This would be a secondary. But the main message is THERE IS HEAVEN.

Probably, on a clear night, you too were looking up at the sky. On those breathtaking moments, as you were searching among the stars, you were asking yourself: WHERE is heaven?

Searching for heaven from earth, did you imagine how small our earth is in this cosmos, and how small you are? Our cosmos, created by the omnipotent and everlasting God is so huge, that we cannot even imagine.

In our galaxy, we have 8 planets. Earth from the sun is 148.61 million km or 1 astronomical unit. Neptune, the outermost planet, is 30.1 astronomical units from the sun or 4.4762 billion km. That is 30.1 times farther from the sun than Earth is.

Our solar system is only a small part of the Milky Way galaxy. A rough estimate points to the existence of more than 10 billion terrestrial planets across our galaxy. Some scientists think there could be as many as one hundred billion galaxies in the universe.

Since our Creator did not tell us exactly where heaven is, we should not spend time trying to figure out WHERE heaven is, but rejoice in the fact that THERE IS HEAVEN.

The last book of the Bible is Revelation. The Book of Revelation was written sometime around 96 AC in Asia Minor. The author was John, who was on the island of Patmos, not far from the coast of Asia Minor, where he was witnessing for Christ. John had an exclusive opportunity, given by God, to spend a short period of time in heaven, in order to testify and to describe for us that there is a place called HEAVEN, and what is going on there. It was written for us, that we should have a stronger belief that Christ Jesus is God, and heaven is the place where He returned after His resurrection, and also Heaven is the place where He will prepare a place for us as He promised.

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am”* John 14:1-3.

## **How can we get to heaven?**

You might think that all you have to do is be a good person, go to church, or help others.

Many people believe that to get to heaven, all they can do is to be a good person. And for them good means not being bad. They are good if they don't murder, steal, curse, or cheat, and rarely lie or gamble. Some people think that their conscience is clear because they are not nearly as bad as other people. They are as good or much better than everyone else they know, and for this, they are pretty sure they will go to heaven.

Many others believe that they have performed many good deeds to get into heaven. They think that because they give money to beggars or food to the homeless, they are actively involved in civic and community affairs, and they generously donate their time, talents, and their money, God considers them GOOD, and for this, God will be forced to let them into His heaven.

There are other church-going Christians, who are thinking that their religious rituals will be their tickets into heaven. Once, a church-going person, whom I deeply respected, said to me: "Frank, look at me. I will be in heaven just because I don't miss any morning mass. If I won't be there, then who will be in heaven?" She thought that, with her actions, she can force God to pay her back.

As we see, there is a common assumption in our society that, as long as somebody leads a good life, they will go to heaven. But this is not truth from the Bible. This belief assumes that the entrance to heaven is on the basis of merit and our actions.

If I would like to be a popular guy, I should preach that EVERYBODY goes to heaven. But I am not concerned about my popularity I would rather help you to find the way which leads you to heaven. I love you, and I don't want to lead you on a path where, at the end, you will not reach heaven. If I would do this, at the end God would exclude me from heaven because I did not preach the gospel.

## **How can we get to heaven according to the Bible?**

Believe what God says about how to get to heaven in the Bible. Believe the truth! The truth is that there is only one way for any human being to get to heaven and that is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, to embrace Him, and to follow Him faithfully.

The angel, who walked with John in heaven, explained to him, that all those who are in heaven are those "*who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple*" Revelation 7:14-15.

### How To Get To Heaven

1. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Believe everything He says to us in the Bible.
2. Accept that we all have sinned, including you. We all have done something wrong, and those sins separate us from God.

**3.** In the Old Testament of the Bible, people were commanded to make animal sacrifices in order to be forgiven for their sins. However, the New Testament says that God sent His son Jesus to Earth to be killed as the ultimate sacrifice, so that all people could be forgiven if they accepted him.

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”* John 3:16. Our Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead three days after he was crucified and killed, providing us with eternal life and light.

Romans 5:8 describes the sacrifice Jesus made for sinners like you and me: *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

**4.** We have to fully understand the significance of Jesus’ sacrifice. Please understand, and accept that you cannot go to heaven UNLESS you become saved in Christ.

Jesus said: *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* John 14:6. This means that we all have to let go of the idea that there are any other paths to heaven.

The Bible also makes it clear that we cannot be good enough to get into heaven on our own accomplished works or actions. Ephesians 2:8-9 says: *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

**5.** If you want to be in heaven, you also have to ask Jesus to come into your life. For this, we often should pray for our salvation, simply acknowledging that Jesus is the Son of God, and he died for our sins. The prayer you pray with your own words should be like this one, and let’s pray this prayer now together:

*“Dear God, I know that because I am a human being, I have my weaknesses and I sin. Every time when I break Your laws, I sin and for this I separated myself from You. Dear Lord, I am truly sorry, and I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward You. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus again to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”*

**6.** With these words in our prayers, we make again and again a conscious decision to become a more faithful follower of Jesus, praying to God for forgiveness for our sins. If we do this, we can believe that we are “born again” Christians. We won’t be good or perfect, but we will rely ONLY on Christ’s sacrifice, asking for God’s free grace. And for this, our lives will be different.

To reach the point to know that we are new born Christians, it is crucial, because Jesus said: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God”* John 3:3.

I am warning you, that we all may still sin sometimes after we become born-again Christians, but we should strive to always be as much like Jesus as we can be. This is how we have to wash our robes every day and made them white.

Please ignore that most common misconceptions that you can get to heaven just by being a good person. I want you to be in heaven after you die.

God wants YOU to go to heaven. God prepared EVERYTHING for you to be in heaven. Accept Christ. Accept God's grace. Show your faith in humble actions and, please lead others towards heaven. Amen