

## Heaven

Sermon July 3, 2022

**Scripture reading:** John 14:1-14, Revelation 15:3-4 & Revelation 19:6-10

**Golden Verse:** “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” Revelation 19:6a

Heaven is a place, a God-created planet, like the earth or other part of the cosmos. Heaven is somewhere in space just as we are here on earth. Most people have a high desire for something more than just birth, living, and dying. The Bible is telling us that God created us to live with him forever. And tells us everything we need to know about heaven.

### **Where is heaven?**

1. The most important fact is that heaven is a real place.

Jesus said to his disciples: *“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.

Jesus calls heaven a place. It means heaven is “my father’s house”, a real place, just as real as Kitchener or Toronto. The place called heaven is as real as the place you call home. It is a real place, a great city, crowded with real people.

2. The Bible also tells us that heaven is God’s place. His throne is there, the angels are there, and the Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven. That is why Jesus said to the thief on the cross, *“Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise”* Luke 23:43.

### **What is heaven like?**

Heaven is the place where the streets are covered with gold, the gates are made of pearls, and the walls are made of precious jewels. These images are from Revelation 21, which offers us the broadest picture of heaven in the entire Bible. If you ask me if I think these things are literally true, the answer is yes and no. Yes, they are literally true, but no, heaven will not be what we imagine. It will be much bigger and more wonderful.

When John writes about a street lined with gold, I don't doubt his words. He simply recounts what he saw in heaven. So, his words are literally true.

### **Who is in heaven now?**

God is in heaven. The Lord Jesus has been in heaven ever since he rose from the earth shortly after his resurrection. The Bible tells us that countless angels are in heaven, serving the Lord in different ways. At the moment of our death, we will go directly into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul spoke of this in 2 Corinthians 5: 7-8 *“For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”*

We need to be clear on this. Not everyone who died is in heaven. Some people didn't get there. The Bible speaks of the saved and the lost. The saved are those who trust in their eternal Saviour, Jesus Christ. The lost are those who do not trust in Christ as Saviour. You and I, one by one, either will be saved or you get lost. There is no middle group. Either we will spend eternity in heaven or eternity in hell. No one goes to heaven except by the grace of God and the merits of the blood of Jesus Christ. If a man says no to Jesus, he has no hope of going to heaven.

### **Will we recognize each other in heaven?**

A few weeks ago, we discussed this question in more details. This is one of the most frequently asked questions about heaven. Somebody said that will not know less in heaven than we know here on earth. In heaven, we will know all people and we will all be friends. We will be the same person as we are now, but without sin.

### **What will we do in heaven?**

Heaven won't be boring! It will be more fun than the best party you've ever attended.

1. We will worship.
2. We will serve the Lord without exhaustion.
3. We will serve a community.
4. We will relax.

The best part of heaven will be to see Jesus himself, face to face. We will worship the Son of God and celebrate his great victory over sin as the endless ages of eternity continue to roll. The best music you've ever heard is pale compared to the music of heaven around the throne of God.

## **How can I be sure I'm going to heaven?**

This is the most important issue. God made it easy for you and to me to go to heaven. He sent his son to die for you and for me on the Cross. He paid the price for your sins and for my sins, that one day we may stand before God in heaven. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* John 14:6.

He also said, *"I am the door; if any man enter in, he shall be saved "* John 10:9. Jesus is the only way to heaven, but also he is the door to heaven. If we want to go to heaven, we have to go through the door labeled "Jesus Christ", because there is no other entrance.

Imagine the following scene. You are at the gates of heaven. It is way more wonderful than you could have ever imagined. What possible reasons do you have to apply for admission? All eternity depends on your response. What would you say?

Let me make this very personal, because it is the most important question in life, and please think about this: If you would die tonight, are you sure you are going to heaven?

We need solid soil for our faith on which we have to stand. Our permission to enter into heaven is in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The whole hope of our heaven is shrouded in what Jesus did when he died on the cross for the sins of the world and was resurrected on Easter Sunday morning.

*"My hope rests on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness."* (Edward Mote, 1834) That's all. Nothing more and nothing less.

If you want to go to heaven, you must place your hope on the only solid rock of Jesus blood and grace. Are you standing on the Rock this morning as we worship? Do you rely entirely on the name of Jesus?

Man does not go to heaven by accident. Heaven is God's prepared place for prepared people. We prepare for heaven, and then God will prepare heaven for us. Most people believe in heaven and most people think they are going there. But are they on the right track? Are they building their lives on Jesus Christ - the solid rock? I'm afraid too many are standing on the sinking sand and don't know. Where are you standing this morning?

What is your hope for heaven? Mine is Jesus Christ. What about you? When the time will come, when your last tears will fall down on your cheek and your heart will slow down, and will beat the last one, what will happen to you then?

If you know Jesus, you have nothing to fear. Trust Jesus. Come to the Cross. Stay and remain on the solid rock of our salvation. May God help you to trust in Jesus Christ and in him alone for your salvation. And may God grant that we may all meet one day in heaven. Amen