

Everyone Wants to Go to Heaven

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. Heaven is place prepared for those who are prepared - Heb. 11:13-16
1. 73% Americans believe in life after death; 62% believe in hell.
(Pewresearch.org)
 2. "This World Is Not My Home" - Reflects faith.
"This world is not my home I'm just a passing through;
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore."
 3. "Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven" (Kenny Chesney) - Reflects worldliness and unbelief.
"Preacher told me last Sunday mornin'
'Son, you better start livin' right;
You need to quit the women and whiskey,
And carrying on all night.
Don't you wanna hear him call your name,
When you're standin' at the pearly gates?
I told the preacher, 'Yes I do,
But I hope they don't call today;
I ain't ready.'
Everybody wants to go to heaven,
Have a mansion high above the clouds;
Everybody wants to go to heaven,
But nobody wants to go now.
Someday I want to see those streets of gold in my halo.
But I wouldn't mind waitin' at least a hundred years or so."
- B. Two things to consider today:
1. The world does not know heaven.
 - a. Misinformed, trivialized, mythologized,
 - b. This lesson gives us an opportunity to help them.
 2. The world would rather remain in this world.
 - a. Some Christians, too.

I. LIFE IN THIS WORLD DETERMINES ETERNITY

A. Gal. 6:7-9; Rom. 2:5-10

1. We all stumble in this life, but only those who fail to repent will miss heaven - Luke 13:3; 1Peter 4:3-5
2. Some actually prefer to enjoy sin for a season in this world, rather than an eternity in heaven - Heb. 11:24-26
3. "An act that rejects immediate gratification in favor of long-term growth, health, or integrity is an act that derives from our high nature instead of our lower." (Steven Pressfield, The Art of War)
4. "Quick gratification of desires, often lead to low stratifications in life."
(Constance Friday)

5. Psalm 84:10
- B. God calls the righteous, inviting them into His heaven - Matt 25:20-21, 34
 1. The righteous anticipate hearing the call - Phil. 1:21-23
 2. The unrighteous do not expect to be summoned from life - Luke 12:20
 3. The first is prepared, not suicidal; the second is deliberately oblivious, not sophisticated - Psalm 52:5-9, 39:4-7
- C. Desire to go to heaven is not the same thing as having a hope of heaven.
 1. Matt. 7:21-23; Rom. 8:18-19, 24-25
- D. Jesus promised dwellings in heaven for the faithful - John 14:1-3
 1. The world has a different order of priorities -- Heaven later, world now -- it will end in no heaven later - 1John 2:15-17; Matt. 6:33
 2. The righteous have a Divine set of priorities: dismiss the world and embrace the hope of heaven - Luke 9:22-25; Gal. 2:20

II. ETERNITY MUST SHAPE LIFE IN THIS WORLD

- A. Eph. 5:14-17 - The righteous are in a hurry to prepare for heaven.
 1. The unrighteous postpone preparation for heaven in lieu of pleasure in this world - Amos 6:3-7; Matt. 24:48-51
- B. The righteous long for the true heaven - Rev. 21:22-27, 22:1-5
 1. The righteous are shaping their lives right now to be ready.
 - a. 2Cor. 4:16-18; 2Tim. 4:6-8; Matt. 5:29-30
 2. Heaven and hell are real; nobody wants to go to hell; yet, most are living for it - Rom. 2:5
 3. The majority are making this choice - Matt. 7:13-14

Conclusion:

- A. Do you want to go to heaven? If you really want to go, you will do something about it now.
 1. Acts 24:25; 2Cor. 6:2; Rom. 13:11-12