

Heaven: If you miss...

S.R. Matthew 16:24 - 27

7 – 12 – 2020

Introduction

- A. God's plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11)
- B. When I finally see My Father and My Lord. (1 John 3:2)
- C. Book: Heaven: O For A Home With God, Steve Klein and Jeff May

I. Heaven is God's Home

- A. God's being there is what makes Heaven – Home.
- B. God and Heaven are linked together.
- C. Heaven, as the dwelling place of God, is not:
 - 1. Where the birds fly (inner space)
 - 2. Where the sun moon and stars are (outer space)
- D. 2 Cor. 12:2 – 4 refers to the “third heaven.”
 - a. It is a spiritual place – not a physical one
- E. God is not confined to space and time – Everywhere - all the time. (Omnipresent)

II. Heaven is a Wonderful – Beautiful Place – Words cannot Describe

- A. “Heaven is a wonderful place, filled with glory and grace, I want to see my Savior's face, heaven is a wonderful place.”
- B. We know beauty when we see it: Rockies, Grand Canyon, Arches, Zion NP, Niagara Falls – Glacier Bay – Yellowstone
 - 1. Stephen tells us that this world is simply God's footstool – imaging His throne. (Acts 7:49)
 - 2. Throne scenes (Isaiah 6, Daniel 7, Ezekiel 1; Rev. 4 – 5)
- C. Dazzling Beauty that cannot be described with words.
 - 1. Response of those who saw and heard was awe and reverence.
 - 2. Symbolic language does not suggest that Heaven is not real.
 - a. It is the most real thing
 - b. (2 Cor. 4:18) “unseen things are eternal”
- D. If God is not there it is just a place.
 - 1. Song: You are Beautiful beyond Description (Psalm 73:25)
- E. God has made His beautiful home – our home too.

III. God's Great Dream - A Large Family of Loving Children

- A. God has so much love in his heart that he desires a large family.
 - 1. He had a Son, but He wanted to lead many sons to glory (Heb. 2:10)
 - 2. God's dream plan was "That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:6 – 7)
- B. To fulfill this dream – plan was so very costly.
 - 1. God had great plans for those who love Him. (1 Cor. 2:9)
- C. God would come to rescue us (Rom. 8:29 – 30)
 - 1. Jeff May calls this God's program – encourages us to "get with the program."

IV. Who Wants to Go to Heaven?

- A. What will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26)
- B. Heaven in us: "Heaven must be in us, before we are in heaven."
 - 1. One day this life – this world – will be on fire - thinking about eternity.
 - 2. **Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.**
- C. Don't you want to go? Now or later?
 - 1. Tension between staying and going home.
 - 2. Why do want to stay?
 - 3. Paul's desire to go home and desire to stay here longer (Ph'p. 1:23 – 24)
 - a. Desire to stay was to serve as a spiritual blessing for others
 - 4. Heaven's people are eagerly waiting for Jesus return.
 - a. Ph'p. 3:20
 - b. 1 Cor. 1:7
 - c. We set our affections on the things above (Co.3:1 – 4)
 - d. We are anxious for Christ to return to take us home "ever be with the Lord"

V. Conclusion:

- A. Just as children of trapped miners long to see their fathers face once again so we long to see our father who comes to our rescue from sin.
- B. God dwells in beauty and splendor and longs to share it with us.
- C. Let us dream of what God planned and provided:
 - 1. Oh for a Home with God – Will Slater