

Eternity

We are in a series on Eternity.

What happens after we die?

What does the Bible say about Heaven and what does the Bible say about Hell?

I recently heard a story about an older gentleman who loved baseball; he also loved the Lord.

So, he began to wonder if there would be baseball in Heaven. If Heaven is a joyful place, then surely there would be baseball in Heaven. So, he made it a matter of prayer. For weeks he asked the Lord, "Will there be baseball in Heaven?"

Late one night, an angel appeared to him. The angel said, "Your prayer has been heard and I'm here to answer your question. I have good news and bad news. The good news is, there is baseball in Heaven. But not only is there baseball in Heaven, there's no bad weather in Heaven, so that means there's nonstop baseball in Heaven."

The man said, "That's awesome! What's the bad news?"

The angel said, "It's your turn to bat."

The two greatest lies the enemy would love for you to believe.

1. Heaven is a boring place.
2. There is no Hell.

Let's talk about Heaven. I want to address a few thoughts and two big misconceptions about Heaven.

- 1. Heaven will be boring.**

Revelation 22:1-2 NLT

Then the angel showed me a river with waters of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew trees of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were for the healing of the nations.

Luke 13:29

People will come from east and west and north and south and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

Does that sound like a boring place to you?

Let me give you a few words the Bible uses to describe Heaven:

A Country.

A great city.

Paradise.

Eden.

A garden.

The temple.

The great feast.

A wedding.

A banquet.

The House of God.

A place of endless mansions.

Home.

If any of those things appeal to you, Heaven is a place you want to be, and it certainly beats the alternative.

Heaven will be the complete absence of boredom.

We're not going to be floating around on clouds stringing herps of gold, singing boring songs. Listen, Heaven won't be Heaven if I'm in the choir. I can carry a tune; I just can't unload it.

Heaven will be a place of rest but rest in the midst of activity.

When you think about Heaven you have to consider the fact that when God made Adam and Eve He never intended for them to die and go somewhere else. Eden was Heaven. Eden was a place of paradise. God walked with them, here on earth.

Isaiah 45:18

For thus says the Lord, "Who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the Lord, and *there is no other.*"

People wonder, "Could there be life on other planets?"

I don't know, but according to that one verse, when God made earth, He set it a part as a special place.

Earth was paradise.

Matthew 19:28

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And in Eden God gave Adam a job – tend the garden and keep it.

That tells me that in Heaven we’re going to be busy.

We’re each going to have an assignment.

But it won’t be labor some, it will be fulfilling, rewarding, refreshing.

Heaven is the absence of evil and the presence of God and in His presence, there is fullness of joy.

Every wholesome thing you enjoy comes from God.

Your capacity for Joy and Love come from God.

Laughter is a gift from God.

All your five senses, come from God.

Your taste buds come from God.

Let me give you one other thing to think about. Scripture says that when we get to Heaven, we will judge the angels that fell with satan. We see this in 1 Cor. 6.

1 Corinthians 6:3

Do you not know that we [believers] will judge angels?

So, your enemy who set you up, tempted you, and pulled at you, you will be the one who cast judgement on him and his fallen angels.

2. Good People go to Heaven.

This week, Tennessee and the world lost a legend.

No one measures up to the talent, compassion and generosity of Dolly Parton.

It's estimated that she gave over \$1.5 billion to charitable causes.

She shaped east Tennessee and the world.

She could do about anything.

But one thing she could not do is escape death.

Nor could she get to Heaven by her own merit.

In an interview in 2019, Dolly Parton was asked about her faith in Jesus. She said, "Critics will say, 'Oh, there's no such thing as God.' And I say, 'That's your problem right there. I know there is. He's my best friend.'"

Good people don't go to Heaven, forgiven people go to Heaven.

Of all the great things to Bible tells us about Heaven, there is one problem.

Revelation 21:27

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.