

HEAVEN AND WHO IS GOING THERE

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Heaven is a place everyone says they would like to go to
- B. New Testament has little to say about "going to heaven". Yet, it has a lot to say about heaven itself and the "idea" of "going to heaven" is abundant, but other terms are used.
- C. Yet scripture talks about heaven as a "place" where we may go to be with God
 - 1. **Definition:** (Thayer - G3772) **1)** the vaulted expanse of the sky with all things visible in it **1a)** the universe, the world **1b)** the aerial heavens or sky, the region where the clouds and the tempests gather, and where thunder and lightning are produced **1c)** the sidereal or starry heavens **2)** the region above the sidereal heavens, the seat of order of things eternal and consummately perfect where God dwells and other heavenly beings.
 - 2. **Scriptures:**
 - a. **1Pet 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven (G3772) for you,
 - b. **Heb 10:34** For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven (G3772) a better and an enduring substance.
 - c. **Phil 3:20, 21** For our conversation is in heaven (G3772); from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.
- D. Few people will put forth the effort to go Matt 7:14
- E. Many things we would like to do but not sacrifice to do them and most people are this way about going to heaven
- F. Reflect a little about heaven and who is going there and hopefully this will increase our desire to go there and is so doing make us work harder and sacrifice more

DISCUSSION:

I. HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE

- A. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us Jhn 14:1-3
 - 1. Prepared for God's people Matt 25:34
 - 2. From the foundation of the world
- B. He will come again to receive us to be with Him

- C. A place of exquisite beauty Rev 21:18-21
- D. A dwelling with God Rev 21:3
- E. A place free of death, tears and sorrows Rev 21:4

II. WHO IS GOING TO HEAVEN?

- A. Negative side - who is not going there
 - 1. Those who work iniquity Matt 7:23
 - 2. Anything that defileth or worketh an abomination or maketh a lie Rev 21:27
 - 3. Those not found written in the Lamb's book of life Rev 20:15
- B. Positive side - who is going to be there
 - 1. He that overcometh Rev 21:7
 - 2. He that is faithful till death Rev 2:10
 - 3. He that doeth the will of the Father Matt 7:21
 - 4. They which are written in the Lamb's book of life Rev 21:27

III. ARE WE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE (SACRIFICE) TO BE AMONG THE ONES WHO WILL GO THERE

- A. For something we have a strong desire to have, be or do or someplace to go we are willing to sacrifice: sometimes even our home, family, friends, job, etc
- B. Example of how the west was settled
 - 1. People sacrificed for an earthly home
 - 2. Were willing to endure many hardships and dangers
- C. To go to heaven we must be willing to pay the price
 - 1. Primary obedience to the Gospel 2Thess 1:8
 - 2. Continuing in the perfect law of liberty Jas 1:25
 - 3. Our whole life must be centered around God and His will Matt 6:33
 - a. Can't love father or mother more than God Matt 10:37
 - b. Must be willing to lose our life for God Matt 10:39

CONCLUSION:

- A. Heaven is a real place prepared for us from the foundation of the world Matt 25:34
- B. A place of exquisite beauty beyond our comprehension Rev 21
- C. Only those who have their name written in the Lamb's book of life will be there! Rev 20:15
- D. Is our desire to go to heaven strong enough that we are willing to pay the price ?
- E. The price is a life of service to God Matt 7:21; Jas 1:25