

HEAVEN
Text: Luke 6:22-23

INTRO: Strange as it may seem, little preaching is done on the subject of heaven. I venture to say that most of you could count on the fingers of one hand all the sermons you have heard that were primarily on this subject.

The word heaven is used in 3 basic senses in the Bible: (1) the immediate air surrounding the earth, where the birds fly; (2) the realm of the sun, moon & stars; & (3) the abode of God. This study will be limited to the 3rd & most important usage of the word--God's abode.

I. HEAVEN IS A PLACE.

- A. A prepared place, JN 14:1-3
- B. An eternal place. An inheritance incorruptible & undefiled & that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. (1 Pet 1:4).

You have a better & an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. (Heb. 10:34).

- C. A place of rest from the troubles & turmoils of this life. They may rest from their labors & their works follow them. (Rev. 14:13)

There remains a rest... (Heb. 4:9-10).

- D. A place of reward & treasure. TEXT; MT 6:19-21.
- E. A place of beauty & value. READ REVELATION 21:18-21
- F. A place of happiness, contentment & comfort. REV 21:3-5
- G. A place of moral & spiritual purity, REV 21:27--22:1, 15
- H. A place where God is served continually, REV 22:3
Therefore they are before the throne of God & serve Him day & night in His temple. (Rev 7:15).

- I. A place of fellowship with God, the holy angels and the redeemed of all ages, MT 8:11; REV 21:22-27.

II. HEAVEN IS CALLED:

- A. The Father's house, JN 14:2-3
- B. The Holy City, New Jerusalem, Rev. 21:1-5

- C. A new heaven & a new earth, Rev 21:1; 2 Pet 3:12
- D. The everlasting kingdom, 2 Pet 1:11

III. WE MUST MAKE PREPARATION TO GO THERE.

- A. We cannot be citizens in the eternal state of Christ's kingdom without first being faithful citizens in its present state, the church. READ I COR. 15:20-26.
- B. To get into Christ's church or kingdom we must be born again--born of water & the Spirit, JN 3:3-5.
- C. Heb 12:22-29 & MT 16:18-19 show conclusively that the church is the kingdom of Christ. The primary difference between the kingdom in its present state & that same kingdom in its eternal state has to do with the limitations, weaknesses, & infirmities of the flesh.

CONCLUSION: Heaven is a wonderful, glorious, splendid, magnificent place--an eternal abode where there is no sickness, pain, death or crying. And the best thing of all is that you & I can go there if we will. By faith and faithfulness, heaven can be ours. There is no other way.

Springhill, LA, April 27, 1975

La Porte, TX, April 4, 1976

Burkeville, TX, April 10, 1976 (meeting)

Jonestown, TX, June 9, 1976

La Porte, TX, September 30, 1979

Humphrey, AR, August 3, 1980 (meeting)

Exton, PA, November 9, 1986

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 16, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 23, 2000

Northside, Greenwood, AR, November 12, 2000 (meeting)

Northside, Georgetown, TX, November 19, 2000 (meeting)