

## IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

Text: Phil. 3:13-14, 20-21

INTRO: The old plantation cotton field songs says, “Everybody talk- ing ‘bout heaven ain’t going there.” In fact, there are quite a few people who do not really want to go to heaven.

The Jehovah Witness cult, the 7th Day Adventists & followers of Herbert W. Armstrong, etc., do not believe any of us will go to heaven. Their hopes center in a refined earth-life.

“Modernists” in the major older denominations do not believe in heaven. They ridicule it as “pie in the sky when we die bye and bey.” They have no greater goal than improving the earth-life thru a social gospel.

Many “fundamentalists” are not really very interested in heaven except as a last resort to avoid hell. To them, heaven is not so much a goal as a glorified fire escape.

Some people have become involved in religion only because they married a Christian or grew up in an environment where their peers were church members. They never really gave themselves to it. It is questionable whether such individuals **really** want to go to heaven.

But if you really want to go to heaven...

### I. YOU MUST SUBMIT TO GOD’S COMMANDS, EVEN IF SOME OF THEM DO NOT NECESSARILY PLEASE YOU.

Matt. 7:21-23; MT 5:39; 1 Pet. 2:13

Heb. 10:25. Some say, “Sunday is the only day I have.” “It won’t hurt to miss the Lord’s Supper once in a while,” etc.

NOTE: One thing is sure: It won’t HELP to take in once in a while. If you are not faithful, you’re going to miss heaven.

### II. YOU MUST LEARN TO DO YOUR DUTY IN THE FACE OF CRITICISM.

A. Criticism will come. Count on it. Some reason, “If I’m going to be criticized, I will quit, not do anything.” Then you may as well quit now, because criticism will come. READ LUKE 7:30-34

B. Paul & Silas were falsely accused, beaten, jailed.

C. When you are criticized, listen. It may help you do better.

Then go ahead & do what is right, whether or not it is popular.

III. YOU MUST NEVER GIVE UP.

- A. When you don't get your way. We ALL like to have our way, but it is not always best for us or for others.  
1 Cor. 8; Rom. 14

Now when [Paul & Silas] had gone thru Phrygia & the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the H.S. to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. (Acts 16:6-7).

- B. Even when you seem to be failing. Failing by whose, or by what standard?

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth. It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, & it shall prosper in the thing for which I send it. (Isa. 55:11).

Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 3:6. Do a good deed, not one noticed? God did. Correct a sin, no one noticed? God did. Give sacrificially, no one appreciated? God did.

CONCLUSION: You can go to heave if you really want to. No preacher, no church, no parent, no partner can make you go, but you can go if you really want to. You'll have to want it more than you want earthly things, popularity, wealth, etc. But if you really want to go to heaven, nothing in this universe can stop you.

La Porte, TX, September 4, 1983

Exton, PA, September 29, 1985

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, September 19, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 6, 2000