

WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

Text: Matthew 5:12; 19:21

INTRO: There is hardly a subject more appropriate for a gospel preacher to share with his audience than the one I have chosen—Why I want to go to heaven.

- I. **WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN.** I am responsible to have a reason for my hope., 1 Pet 3:15.

Heb 6:19, This hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure & stedfast, & which enters the Presence behind the veil.

- II. **WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN.** I cannot answer for others, but must answer for myself.

Rom 14:12, Each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Cor 5:10, We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Ezek 3:18-19, When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

- III. **WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN.** I must desire it above all else.

- A. The rich young ruler was interested in going to heaven but not interested enough to be successful at it.

Mark 10:17-22, Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him,

"Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth." Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; & come, take up the cross, & follow Me." But he was sad at this word, & went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

B. Felix, the Rom. Governor was fearful of not preparing to meet God, but not fearful enough to do what he needed to do, Acts 24:24-25.

C. Jesus warned would-be disciples that serving Him must come before everything else or it is useless.

Luke 9:59-62, Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go & bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

IV. **WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN.** I'm not there yet. Modernists say we get our heaven & hell on earth. They will be surprised & greatly disappointed in the Day of Judgment.

John 14:2-3

Heb 6:19-20, This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure & steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even

Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

1 Peter 1:3-4, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope thru the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

NOTE: Even now Christians are already in God's kingdom & enjoy a foretaste of heaven itself.

1 Cor 15:24, Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

V. **WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN.** A real place. Not a figment of the imagination or simply a state of mind.
John 14:2; Matt. 25:34

VI. **WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN.**
A. Because God, Christ, the H.S. & all saints of all ages will be there, Matt. 8:11; 1 Tim. 4:8.
B. Because it is the best thing God has to offer His children.

1. Everything in the universe belongs to God. Psa 19:5, All the earth is mine. Psa 24:1
2. God, who could give us blessings surpassing the human imagination has picked for His children the apex—the choicest of all blessings—to dwell forever in the abode of God Himself.

Rom 8:18, For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Cor 4:17-5:1, For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Mark 10:29-30, So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers & sisters & mothers & children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.

C. Because it is a realm free from sorrow, pain, sickness & death.

Rev 21:4, And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

D. Because I don't want to go to hell, Matt. 25:41-46.

CONCLUSION: These are but a few of the reasons why I want to go to heaven. I am persuaded that these are also reasons why you should want to go there. Jesus died so you could. He has done the hard part. What you must do is to be a faithful child of God for the few remaining years you have on this earth—your reasonable service, Rom. 12:1.

La Porte, TX, May 11, 1980
Bible Camp, Sabinal, TX, June 16, 1980
Exton, PA, February 23, 1986
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 2, 1993
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 2, 2001