♦SERMON NOTES **♦**

Sunday, April 27, 2014

"HEAVEN IS FOR REAL – PART 1"

(Revelation 21:1-7)

Today and again next Sunday we will seek to answer commonly asked questions about heaven. As we do, we will seek to become more heavenly minded so that we can be of more earthly good.

1. Clearly God is omnipresent. How can the Bible say then that heaven is His habitation?
2. What does the Bible mean by New Heaven and New Earth?
3. What will it mean to see God?
4. What will it mean to be with God?
5. Will we always be engaged in worship?
6. Will we actually rule with Christ?
7. Will we be ourselves?
8. Will we become angels?
9. Will we have emotions in heaven?
10. Will we have desires in heaven?

11. Do people in heaven see what's happening on earth?

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:1-2, NIV).

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(Revelation 21:1-7)

"The windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights" (Genesis 7:11-12, ESV).

"Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth" (Genesis 1:16-17, NKJV).

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved" (2 Peter 3:10, ESV).

1. Clearly God is omnipresent. How can the Bible say then that heaven is His habitation?

"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite" (Isaiah 57:15, ESV).

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NIV).

2. What does the Bible mean by New Heaven and New Earth?

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV).

3. What will it mean to see God?

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8, ESV).

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17, NIV).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17, ESV).

4. What will it mean to be with God?

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God'" (Revelation 21:3, ESV).

5. Will we always be engaged in worship?

6. Will we actually rule with Christ?

"If we endure with him, we shall also reign with him" (2 Timothy 2:12, ESV).

"They will reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 22:5, NIV).

"The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations" (Revelation 2:26, ESV).

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much" (Luke 16:10, ESV).

7. Will we be ourselves?

"In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents" (Luke 15:10, NLT).

8. Will we become angels?

9. Will we have emotions in heaven?

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4, ESV).

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh" (Luke 6:21, ESV).

10. Will we have desires in heaven?

11. Do people in heaven see what's happening on earth?

"I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:9-10, ESV).

"Who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31, ESV).

"There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10, ESV).

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:1-2, NIV).