Unanswered: What Is Heaven Really Like?

Pastor Dennis Rouse

May 26-27, 2018

Questions People Ask About Heaven:

What will people be like in Heaven? Will we look similar to ourselves? What about our race? Will we wear clothes? What age will we be? Will there be sexes in Heaven? Will our bodies have limitations?

What will we be doing in Heaven? Will we work? Will we eat and drink? Will we still be learning? Will we have individual homes? What about sleep?

What about relationships? Will we know each other from earth? Will we interact with each other socially? Will we be reunited with loved ones?

Where is Heaven? Will Heaven change locations after Jesus comes back? Is there more than one Heaven?

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Things to Understand About Heaven:

1. We were made for another world.

"WE HAVE NOT BEEN TRAINED [TO WANT HEAVEN]: our whole education tends to fix our minds on this world ... when the real want for Heaven is present in us, we do not recognize it. Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to

you, but they never quite keep their promise." — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Hebrews 11:13-16 NKJ

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a HOMELAND. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Romans 8:18 NKJ

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 Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJ

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 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 are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Philippians 1:21-23 NKJ

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Heaven is not boring!

Two Heavens:

- 1. Present Heaven
- 2. Eternal Heaven

2 Peter 3:13 NKJ

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1-5 NKJ

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 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." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

What We Assume About Heaven vs. What the Bible Says About Heaven:

- 1. Non-earth, unfamiliar, otherworldly VS. Familiar, earthly, resurrected bodies
- 2. No time and space, nothing to do VS. Time and space, a God to worship and serve, universe to rule, purposeful work to accomplish, friends to enjoy
- 3. No learning or discovery VS. Eternity of learning and discovery

4. Absence of the terrible but presence of little we desire VS. Presence of the wonderful without sin, everything we desire and nothing we don't

"We have become "BENT" (sinful) versions of what God intended. Your deceitfulness, laziness, lust, deafness, disability and disease are not the real you. They are the temporary perversions that will be eliminated. They're the cancer that the Great Physician will surgically remove. His redemptive work is such that never again will they return. When you're on the NEW EARTH, for the first time you'll be the person God created you to be." - *C.S. Lewis*