

Sunday, March 27, 2022

God Loves You, Part 11 – God Wants You With Him Forever
(Our Forever Home of Love in Heaven)

“One of the most enchanting concepts in human existence is the idea of ‘home’. The word invokes memories of rest, security, and the presence of those **we love most**. Today we are a nation of nomads. On the average we make 11.7 moves in a lifetime”. (D.

Jeremiah) I was born in McComb, MS. And only lived in 2 places (within 4 miles of each other as I was growing up. Since I turned 18 I have moved 11 times, so that makes 12 times for me, so I hit the average right on. I don’t know how many more earthly moves I may have. But I do know that I have one more move left for sure. No Matter how much I love this earthly place, I will be ‘moving on up’ to my heavenly home! Hallelujah!

Many of you may remember the old school adage of the “Three R’s – Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic”. Obviously they don’t all start with ‘R’s, but I guess you get the point. Today we are going to double the blessings and go for the “SIX R’s” of Heaven – Our Home of Forever Love.

(Outline and some selections from Chapter 9 of David Jeremiah's book "God Loves You")

(1) Residence

John 14: 1-3... ¹"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

That place we usually refer to as "heaven" is given a number of different labels in Scripture. Maybe one of your favorites is "*the Father's House*," That is the name Jesus used to describe heaven in John 14.

“My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

In this comforting image we come face-to-face with the closeness, intimacy, and permanency of heaven. Heaven will be our real forever home (that is, of course, if you’re a believer). It is a little uncertain for the exact timing and details. But we will be with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and all the saints in a loving, family reunion for all eternity. That fact alone is enough to start me REJOICING.

Which by the way is our next point...Rejoicing

(2) Rejoicing

Psalm 16:1... *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

“Could heaven possibly be boring? To make such an assertion, Randy Alcorn suggests, is to imply that God Himself is boring. That's utter nonsense, because God Himself placed within us our very ideas of excitement and pleasure. He made our minds; He shaped our interests, our drives, and our emotions. Alcorn writes in his well known book “Heaven” (Tyndale Publishing, p. 321,322)

God is the master artist who created the universe, the inventor of music, the author and main character of the unfolding drama of redemption. Head of state? He's king of the universe. Yet if someone says, "I want to go to Heaven to be with God forever," others wonder, *Wouldn't that be boring?* What are we thinking? The very qualities we admire in others—every one of them—are true of God. He's the source of everything we find fascinating. Who made Bach, Beethoven and Mozart? Who gave them their gifts? Who created music itself and the ability to perform it? All that is admirable and fascinating in human beings comes from their creator.'? You can be sure that neither God nor heaven will be boring—and neither will you. we must learn to see heaven through biblical eyes—the heaven too beautiful for human eyes and more thrilling than the most exciting moment any life has ever experienced. As the psalmist reminds us, in God's presence is "fullness of joy," and at His right hand are "pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11)". (David Jeremiah)

(3) Recognition

I Corinthians 13:12... *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

“One of the questions most often asked concerning our future home is this: "Will we know one another in heaven?" The answer is a resounding "Yes!" After His resurrection, Jesus' disciples knew who He was. Tony Evans turns this question around. A woman in his church came to him with the question we're exploring. "Pastor," she asked, "will we know each other in Heaven?" He smiled and replied, "I would say that we won't really know each other *until* we get to Heaven. "It makes sense, doesn't it? In this world, we only think we know one another. What we see and hear forms our mental portraits of other human beings. But those tangible attributes no more reveal the true complexity of a human being than the tip of an iceberg reveals its total mass. As I noted in the previous section, in heaven we will be fully what God intended us to be. All masks will be removed. We'll see each other face-to-face, with no secrets between us. Our communication will be perfect, rather than marred by the subterfuges and limitations of this fallen world". (David Jeremiah)

(4) Relationships

Hebrews 12:22,23...²² *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,*²³ *to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,*

“In heaven, our relationships won't be limited to eras of time or boundaries of territory. We'll be able to speak to people from every era of history. We can have friendships with the ancients and, should history continue that long, with people far in the future. I have many questions for David, Joseph, and Daniel from the Old Testament.

I look forward to finding out if I got it right when I preached about them. And of course, I would like to sit with Paul of Tarsus, the wonderful apostle, for hours on end. "Tell me now, Paul, what was that thorn in the flesh? What happened after the conclusion of Acts? Can you fill in those 'blank' years just after your conversion & before your ministry". Etc (David Jeremiah)

5) Responsibility

Matthew 25:23... *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

Revelation 7:15... *Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them."*

Revelation 22:5... *there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."*

As you can see, people seem to keep busy in heaven. Service and reward are important themes in the next life. But these hints of heavenly activity are so broad and general that we cannot help but wonder just what work and service might be like in a place of perfection. "It is work... free from care and toil and fatigue," writes David Gregg. "It is work according to one's tastes and delight and ability. If tastes vary there, if abilities vary there, then occupations will vary there." (The Heaven-Life",p.62)
"a working environment free from the restrictions of time, money, selfishness, greed, sickness, tiredness, laziness, pain, frustration and even mistakes. How incredibly satisfying and rewarding work will be in heaven, doing what you love doing with people who love you and all for the glory of God." (David Jeremiah)

“There will always be some new joy to discover, some place to visit or revisit, some new dish to create, a new flower to breed, a new song to sing, a new poem to write ... something new in our relationship with God. And this stretching and growing will go on forever.

Imagine what we will accomplish after working a few million years without the limitations of sin! If you enjoy culture, technology, and the triumph of the human spirit, you are really going to feel at home on the new earth”. (Michael Whitmer, 'Heaven is a Place on Earth'. P.272)

(6) Reality

2 Corinthians 5:2-10... 'Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

“Only in heaven will we finally feel the completeness that we were created to enjoy! Christian psychologist Mark McMinn explains,

“However messed up our abnormal world may be, the story is not over yet. The Christian story is ultimately a comedy and not a tragedy; it ends as it began. Someday, there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Birds will really sing. Lions and lambs will tumble and play in grass that is truly green. Our bodies won't be riddled with wrinkles, muscle spasms and cancer. There will be pure joy and beauty and goodness. And God, who longs to be with us, will walk with us in the Garden”. (Mark McMinn. 'Why Sin Matters' p. 53 in Jeremiah's God Loves You. P.245)

Poem & Song

The Ship

I am standing upon the shoreline. A ship at my side spreads her sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I watch her at length until she hangs like speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, "There, she's gone." "Gone where?" Gone from my sight...that is all. She is as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her; and just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There she's gone," there are voices on the other side who take up the glad shout, "Welcome Home".

I Corinthians 13:12... *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

Face To Face

by Zach Williams & Jonathan Smith.
Essential Music Publishing

When we all see Jesus

When we all see Jesus

No more sickness, no more madness, no more pain

When we all see Jesus face to face