

How To Enjoy Heaven

No. 109

Introduction.

I. Some years ago a **New Zealand chief** visited England and was shown the many places of interest, including a beautiful mansion near London. To the surprise of his guide the chief did not seem too impressed with the mansion, which was furnished with the costliest of furniture from all parts of the world. Before they left the mansion the chief said, "Ah, my Father's house is finer than this!" In astonishment the guide exclaimed, "Your father's house is finer than this mansion? The guide understood what the chief meant when he began to speak of his heavenly Father and of the many mansions of glory prepared in the heavenly city.

A. Jesus said. (Jn. 14:1-3).

B. The book of Revelation contains a vivid description of the heavenly home. (Rev. 14:13; 21:4).

REV 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And the one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. 16 And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. 18 And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. 21 And the

twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. 25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; 26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

REV 22:1 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; 4 and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

C. Indeed heaven is a beautiful and wonderful place. It is a place that is more beautiful and more wonderful than any mortal can comprehend. The beauties of this life cannot compare to the eternal home of the soul.

II. I would like to speak to you on “How To Enjoy Heaven.”

- A. This sounds like a very strange topic because most people think that everyone will just naturally enjoy a beautiful and wonderful place like heaven, but this is not so! Many people would be bored and utterly miserable in heaven.
- B. There are some important factors that will affect one’s enjoyment of it. Let’s consider these things.

I. **Learn To Enjoy Worshiping God** - In the first place, in order to enjoy heaven we must learn to enjoy worshiping God.

A. **Heaven is a place of worship.** Those who are blessed with a home in heaven will spend eternity Worshiping the Almighty and merciful God. This means that before one could enjoy heaven he must learn to enjoy worshiping God.

B. **There are a lot of people, I am sad to say, who do not enjoy Worshiping God.**

- 1. Oh, they come Sunday morning—some or most of the time, but you never see them Sunday night or

Wednesday night or during “special services.” Worship to them is often a matter of duty or convenience rather than the spontaneous overflow of a heart full of love.

2. I say to you that sort of person would be miserable in heaven! If one feels that worshipping God 3 or 4 hours a week is too much here, an eternity of worship would be intolerable.

II. **Learn To Enjoy Working For The Lord** - In the second place, in order to enjoy heaven we must learn to enjoy working for the Lord.

A. It may come as a surprise to some, but heaven is not merely a place of rest.

1. It is a place of service. (Rev. 22:3).
2. This scripture indicates there will be work in heaven and in order to enjoy heaven then we must enjoy doing the Lord’s work.

B. One time **a preacher was showing another a picture of the members** where he preached. He pointed to several people and said, “I don’t worry about these because they enjoy Worshiping and serving their Lord.” He told of one young member who felt it was too long between Wednesday and Sunday and had suggested that they have a Friday evening service. But then he pointed to another couple and said, “I fear for them; they don’t enjoy doing the Lord’s work.”

1. I’m afraid when it comes to the Lord’s work that too many Christians are like this couple. “They don’t enjoy doing the Lord’s work” and do little in the kingdom.
2. **Some Christians are like the boy who had gone to help a farmer for the summer.** When his dad asked how he was doing, the blunt-spoken farmer said, “Well, if he had a third hand, he’s need another pocket to put it in.”
3. **Are we like this?** Are we working for the Lord? Do we enjoy spending and being spent in His service? These are questions that we need to really think about. We are not prepared for heaven nor would we enjoy heaven unless we work and enjoy working for the Lord here.

III. **Learn To Enjoy Wearing Robes Of Righteousness** - In the third place, in order to enjoy heaven we must learn to enjoy wearing robes of righteousness.

A. In the seventh chapter of the book of Revelation, John gives this view of heaven.

REV 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These

who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" 14 And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

1. John speaks here of "a great multitude" gathered round the throne of God arrayed in white robes singing praises to the Almighty God.
 2. Those in heaven then will wear "white robes of righteousness" and will do good for all eternity. If we are going to enjoy heaven, we must enjoy wearing the robes of righteousness, that is, walking in the light.
- B. Speaking in the physical sense**, I suppose all of us enjoy wearing clean clothes and dislike wearing dirty or soiled clothing. Isn't it a good feeling to come in during the hot summer time and to wash off the grime and then put on clean clothing? We like to feel clean and to have clean clothes.
- C. But how sad it is** that some who enjoy clean clothing do not enjoy wearing the robes of righteousness! They clothe their souls in the rags of sin and would rather participate in the things that are wrong. Again, I say to you that a person like this would not enjoy heaven!

IV. Learn To Enjoy The Fellowship Of Saints - In the fourth place, in order to enjoy heaven we must learn to enjoy the fellowship of Christians.

- A.** In heaven, our association will be only with Christians and those who have lived righteously before the Christian era. There will be no drunkards or thieves or he who makes an abomination and a lie, but only those who have ceased such things and who have their names written in the Lamb's book of life.
- B. There are some Christians who do not enjoy being with other Christians.**
1. If there is a church fellowship or some other kind of get together of Christians they are never present or if they do come they are bored. They would rather be with those outside the church and participate in the things of the world.
 2. Those who do not like to be with Christians here would not spending eternity in heaven with Christians. Although our bodies will be different, we will like the same things there that we like here.

Conclusion.

I. The point I have been trying to make is this: God will not let any person enter heaven who would not be happy there! If you want to go to heaven (and I pray you do) you must learn to enjoy Worshiping and serving God, wearing the robes of righteousness, and the fellowship of Christians. Those who do not enjoy doing these things would be misfits in heaven and Jesus will say to them in the judgment. (Matt. 25:41).

II. Do you want to go to heaven?

- A.** If so, begin today to prepare for this eternal city. Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins and come forth from the water to walk in the newness of life.

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B. Come as we stand and sing.