

HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE!

(Revelation 21:1-4)

- Introduction:
1. Imagine the questions that must have gone through the mind of Adam and Eve.
 2. Job asked the same question (Job 14:14).
 3. We cannot escape such questions at funerals.
 4. However, Jesus gives us answers to such questions (Matthew 22:23-32).
 5. Let us notice several facts about Heaven.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THINKING ABOUT HEAVEN

- A. It has much to do with our conduct.
- B. (Colossians 3:1-2) Seek and set...
- C. (Hebrews 11:8-10) Causal -vs- Coincidental.
- D. Revealing Question: *"How often do you think about heaven?"*

II. TODAY, SOME MALIGN HEAVEN

- A. Some deny its existence.
- B. Garner Ted Armstrong - Said he doesn't want to go to heaven because it would be boring to him.
- C. The Humanist Manifesto - "Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns..."
- D. While some may malign heaven as some kind of *"pie in the sky"* fairy tale, I simply place my faith in it (Hebrews 11:1).

III. WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

- A. Because of the reward.
 1. (Matthew 5:11-12).
 2. In heaven, the inequities of this life will be righted.
 3. (Hebrews 6:10-20).
 - a. God doesn't forget.
 - b. Hope provides an anchor for the soul (Habakkuk 2:4).
- B. Because of the reunion.
 1. Throughout the Bible, a hope of reunion is presented.
 2. The fact that we know one another in heaven does not present some sort of theological problem.
 3. Ills. of Kelli's prayer about her house in heaven - all relatives.
- C. Because of what will be present and absent.
 1. Things present.
 - a. Rest (Revelation 14:13).
 - b. Inheritance (I Peter 1:4).
 - c. God (Revelation 21:3).

- d. Just men (Hebrews 12:22-23).
- 2. Things absent.
 - a. Death (Luke 20:36).
 - b. Sorrow (Revelation 7:17).
 - c. Pain (Revelation 21:4).
 - d. Tears (Revelation 21:4).
 - e. Night (wickedness (Revelation 21:25).

D. Because of Hell.

- 1. (II Corinthians 5:11).
- 2. (Matthew 25:46).
- 3. Hell is too serious to joke about and to gamble our souls with.
- 4. Death is so certain, and life so uncertain, we can't take chances.

Conclusion: 1. We need to be ready for the time of our departure as was Paul (II Timothy 4:6-8).