

WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN, #1

INTRO.

I. Last week we considered reasons to avoid hell, because it is a HORRIBLE place, a HELPLESS place, and a HOPELESS place.

A. The only alternative to hell is "heaven", which is the home of God and Christ. Jn.14:2f

B. Going to heaven will be the end of sorrow and suffering that we have to endure as pilgrims on the way to that eternal home. 1Pe.2:11; Mt.7:13f

II. There are other reasons related to "heaven" that motivate us to want to go there.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, heaven is the HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

A. The great heroes of the faith will be in heaven. Mt.8:11; He.11:14-16

1. Imagine the thrill of meeting Abraham, David and all the prophets, as well as apostle Paul, Peter, John and Timothy.

2. Think of the thrill of being reunited with loving Christian ancestors of ages past.

B. The little children who lost their lives early through illness, accident, or murder by abortion, will all be there.

1. Children are sometimes described as tiny flowers, given to bud on earth, and allowed to bloom in heaven.

2. Every child deprived of life here, will be in heaven. 2Sa.12:23; Mt.18:14; 19:13f

II. 2nd, heaven is the HOME OF OUR DREAMS.

A. No place on earth provides the beauty and perfect joy as will heaven.

1. Some travel from place to place, looking for the ideal climate and healthful place to live, only to find that it is temporary at best.

2. The Christian is willing to endure some limitation here in view of a perfect place in heaven forever.

B. God reminds us of heaven so as to always motivate us to live in view of reaching it, for if we dream only of better things on earth, our dreams will be shattered. 2Pe.3:10-14

1. Sorrow will not be in heaven. Mt.25:21,33

2. Sin will not be in heaven. Mt.21:27

3. Suffering will not be in heaven. Rev.14:13

4. Sickness and death will not be in heaven. Rev.21:4f

5. Disappointment will not be in heaven.

III. 3rd, heaven will be a HOME OF GLORY.

A. Heaven will be a place filled with the radiance of God. Jn.17: 5; Rev.21:22f

B. Those who share in the benefits of Christ's death here, will also share in His glory. Ro.8:17f

CONCLUSION

I. Someone has said, "No man is qualified for heaven who does not first feel worthy of hell, and, out of such contrition, obey the Bible."

II. Illus. HOGS IN FRENCH VILLA. During WW2, a luxurious French Villa lay in the path of oncoming armies. Although deserted, it was shelled and left with great gaping holes in its stone sides. A few surviving hogs rooted their way into the once beautifully furnished drawing room and virtually destroyed any beauty that remained. The hogs were not of the same nature as those who once inhabited it, and thus did not appreciate it. Just so, to millions of rebellious people, the glories of heaven will not be appreciated. Heaven is a PREPARED place for those who PREPARE themselves for it.