

WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN, #2

INTRO.

- I. There are 2 places where everyone who has ever lived or will live—will spend eternity.
 - A. HELL (Gr. gehenna) is described as the lake of fire, a place of torment, weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth, outer darkness, and a place of eternal pain.
 - B. HEAVEN is the abode of the righteous, where God, Christ, the angels, and the righteous of all ages will be together forever and ever.
- II. At this time we shall consider 2 basic reasons for wanting to go to heaven, that are related to **reward** and **punishment** that we shall consider at this time.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, I want to go to heaven to AVOID punishment of the wicked.

- A. In ages past, God has punished the wicked in various ways.
 1. Cain received temporal punishment for murder. Gen.4:8-14
 2. Sodom and Gomorrah were punished for immorality. Jude 7
 3. Under Judaism, sabbath breakers and adulterers were stoned to death.
 4. Illus. CONSEQUENCES OR PUNISHMENT? (David, drunkard..wreck, adulterer)
- B. There are several characteristics of the final punishment of the wicked.
 1. 1st, God's punishment will be “just” or deserving. 2Th.1:6f; Ro.1:28-32
 2. 2nd, God's punishment will be “for disobedience”. 2Th.1;8f; Ro.2:8f
 3. 3rd, God's punishment will be “permanent”. Mt.25:46A; 10:28
 - a. Momentary agony is sometimes more than the physical body can endure, making physical death a welcome relief.
 - b. But, the thought of being severely punished for 1,000 years ONLY might offer some hope, but for it to last a million times a million years, and then starting over again and again, will be an awful punishment.
 - 1) Some don't seem bothered by this, as they are enjoying the moment.
 - 2) Is this never-ending punishment what YOU want?

II. 2nd, I want to go to heaven to RECEIVE the reward of the righteous.

- A. The reward of eternal life in heaven is based on the love, grace and mercy of God, and is appropriated by the blood of Jesus, through obedience to the gospel and continued faithfulness by man. Jude 21
 1. God's blessings are available to all mankind, and Christ died for all, BUT not all will be saved, for not all choose to be saved.
 2. Everyone who becomes and remains righteous will be rewarded.
- B. There are several characteristics of this reward, as described through the word “**crown**”.
 1. 1st, the heavenly reward is described as a crown of “**life**”. Js.1:12
 2. 2nd, the heavenly reward is described as a crown of “**righteousness**”. Ti.4:6-8
 3. 3rd, the heavenly reward is described as an “**incorruptible**” crown. 1Co.9:24f
 4. 4th, the heavenly reward is described as a “**glorious**” crown. 1Pe.5:4
 - a. The word “glory” refers to the radiance and splendor of the reward.
 - b. On earth, the loveliest flowers fade and die, while the glories of heaven never fade or die.

CONCLUSION

- I. The enjoyment of heaven will surely be the privilege of singing and worshipping with all the angelic host and the redeemed of all ages. Rev.5:8-14
- II. Illus. BUS TO HEAVEN.

The story is told of a teacher in a classroom asking the students how many of them wanted to go to

heaven. Everyone but one little girl held up their hands. The teacher was rather shocked, and asked the girl why she did not want to go there. She replied that she did want to go there, but not now. She told the teacher that she THOUGHT she, the teacher, was trying to get up a busload for NOW. A lot of folks today say they want to go to heaven, but not NOW. They have other things to do NOW, and put off making preparation for going to heaven. The only way to go to heaven later is to prepare for it NOW. 2Co.6:2