

Heaven Is Worth It

Text : **Matt. 10: 21-28 , Rev. 21: 1-8, 22-27**

S#1.

S#2.

A. We live in a world corrupted by sin and the works of Satan.

1. We deal with the consequences of sin every day.
 - a. Turn on the news ... crime, violence, war
 - b. People knowingly say and do things to hurt us.
2. Since Eve and Adam sinned in the garden men have been dying.
 - a. Every funeral is a reminder of sin.
 - b. Every trip to the doctor is a reminder of sin.
3. Sometimes the world seems hostile and overwhelming and we long for relief.

B. At such times we're reminded of a place we've all heard of called Heaven. S#3.

1. It's a place everyone wants to go, but not any time soon.
2. Though a place even greater than our imaginations can describe, one seldom hears people talk about going there.
 - a. People will talk about looking forward to sporting events, but not Heaven.
 - b. People will talk about the beauty of vacation spots, but not of Heaven.

C. Christians live by faith anticipating an eternal reward in Heaven.

1. **Matt. 5: 11-12** Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. S#4.
12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in Heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
2. There are many false beliefs about Heaven, but we'll not address them herein.

*** With this lesson we will observe a few truths about Heaven.**

I. Heaven is a real place.

S#5.

A. Just for clarification : three heavens are referred to in Scripture.

1. **II Cor. 12: 2-4** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. S#6.
3 And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows— **4** was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.
 - a. The atmosphere
 - b. The universe (Stars, etc.)
 - c. The dwelling place of God ... *It is this Heaven to which our lesson refers.*

2. Heaven is not just a N.T. concept.

Deut. 30: 11-12 For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. **12** It is not in Heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to Heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?' **S#7.**

B. Jesus ascended from this earth to prepare a place for us.

1. **John 14: 2-3** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** 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. **S#8.**

2. The place Jesus prepared for us is ready and reserved for us.

I Pet. 1: 3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **S#9.**

C. Heaven will be a place with physical substance. **S#10.**

1. It is where Jesus is and He ascended there in a body.
2. **I Thes. 4: 13f** ... We will be with Jesus in a resurrected body. (*This one changed*)
3. Heaven is described as a "new heaven and new earth."
 - a. **Rev. 21: 1** – Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. **S#11.**
 - b. **II Pet. 3: 12-13** ... looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! **13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (*a tangible mass with an atmosphere*) **S#12.**
4. The new earth has a new city.

Rev. 21: 2 – And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **S#13.**

D. We are but sojourners passing through earth on our way home to Heaven. **S#14.**

1. The fathers of the faith realized they were just sojourners passing through earth.

Heb. 11: 13 – All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **S#15.**
2. **I Pet. 1: 17** – conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth:

II. There are things that will NOT be in Heaven.**S#16.****A. There will be no evil people there. (*You'll never have a bad neighbor.*)** **S#17.**

1. **Rev. 21: 8** – But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and, all liars their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.
2. **I Cor. 6: 9-10** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived**; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (Cf. – **Isa. 5: 20**) **S#18.**
3. **Gal. 5: 16-21** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire **S#19.** of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. **19** Now the deeds of the **S#20.** flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, **21** envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

B. There will be absolutely NO unbelievers in Heaven.

II Thes. 1: 7-9 ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His **S#21.** mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

C. There will be no hypocrites who practice religion, but do not surrender to Jesus.

Matt 7: 21 – Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of **#22** heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

D. None of the consequences of sin will be there because there will be no sin there.

1. **Rev. 21: 4** – and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no **S#23.** longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.
2. As in the garden, we will again be eating from the tree of life.
Rev. 22: 2 – On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds* **S#24.** of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

III. There are things we can look forward to enjoying in Heaven.**S#25.****A. Heaven will be a beautiful place.****S#26.**

1. **21: 2** – **made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.** (*woman's most beautiful day*)
2. **21: 10-13** ... described metaphorically because it was too beautiful for words
 - a. Encrusted with precious stones.
 - b. The city was so rich it was made of gold.

B. Heaven is totally secure.

1. **21: 17** ... It is surrounded by walls that are 72 yards high.
2. **21: 12** ... It has plenty of gates, but each gate is guarded by an angel.

C. It is a huge place.

1. **21: 12** ... It has mountains.
2. **21: 16** ... The city is a 1500 mile cube.
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.
3. **22: 1** ... It has rivers.

S#27.**D. It has light without a power grid.**

1. **22: 5** ... God will be their source of light.
2. Remember : **Gen. 1: 3-5** .. light was created ... **Gen. 1: 14-19** .. the sun was created

IV. In Heaven Christians will dwell in the very presence of God.**S#28.****S#29.****A. In this life people go to extreme measures to escape pain, suffering and death.**

1. Drugs, sex and rock n' roll
2. Participate in "feel good religions"
3. They create self-worth by devoting themselves to causes.
4. They bury themselves in their work.
5. They become absorbed in hobbies, activities and other quests for pleasure.

B. The emptiness that we feel in this world is the longing for our creator.**S#30.**

1. **Gen.** ... God created man to be with Him, but sin made a separation.
2. Abraham left all to walk with God, but his descendants strayed.

3. God reached out to Abraham's descendants and dwelt among them.
 - a. In the tabernacle.
 - b. In the temple.
4. Only Moses had a face to face relationship with God. (*Perhaps Enoch ??*)
5. Even the priests could not directly approach God.
6. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place and only once each year.
7. Sin again separated God from His creation. ***He left the temple.***

C. God walked among men in the person of Jesus, but He was rejected. **S#28.**

1. **John 1: 1** – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God **S#29.**
2. **John 1: 14** – And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
3. **Acts 2** ... Sin put Jesus on the cross and separated God from man again.
4. No one alive today has ever seen God.
I Pet. 1: 8 – though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **S#30.**

D. The ultimate glory of Heaven is to be with God. **S#31.**

1. **Gen. 1-2** ... We were made to be in direct fellowship with God.
2. We'll see faithful loved ones who have gone on before and the great heroes of faith, but seeing God will make it special. (*I have a list of questions years long.*)

V. There are two prerequisites to entering Heaven. **S#32.**

A. There are many false beliefs about who will go to Heaven. **S#33.**

1. Shooting stars are people getting their wings.
2. Someone dies "I guess God needed another angel."
3. Everyone goes to Heaven and especially all good people.
4. When one dies Peter will interview him at the pearly gates to see if he gets in.
5. All you have to do is keep the Ten Commandments and you'll go to Heaven
7. Believe on Jesus and pray and you'll be saved. **Remember ... Matt. 7: 21-23.**

*** If any of these are true, Jesus died for nothing.**

B. One must actually be IN Christ.**S#34.**

1. Salvation is IN and only in Christ Jesus.

- a. **II Tim. 2: 10** – For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is IN Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

S#35.

b. No matter what a person believes or does, he cannot be saved outside of Christ.

2. One who has faith is placed INTO Christ by God when he is baptized.

- a. **Gal. 2: 26-27** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

S#36.

b. Baptism must be motivated by faith. *It's not the water that saves.*

C. One must keep his faith in Jesus until the end of his journey on earth.**S#37.**

1. **Matt. 10: 22** – You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

2. **Rev. 2: 10** – Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

S#38.

3. **Rev. 21: 7** – He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

S#39.

4. **I Cor. 15: 2** – by which also you are saved, IF you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

CONCLUSION :**S#40.****A. While we are in this body and on this earth Satan will do his best to destroy faith.**

1. He will use the things of this world to distract us from God.
2. He will use people we love and social pressure to intimidate us and to lead us astray.
3. He will use pain, sickness, adversity and even persecution to discourage us .. doubt.

B. Heaven will be worth whatever we must withstand to get there.**S#41.**

Rom. 8: 18 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

INVITATION :

Are you living in anticipation of Heaven or in fear and doubt ?

S#42.**S#43.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Matthew 10: 21-28**

21 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. **22** You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. **23** But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish *going through* the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes. **24** A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. **25** It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household! **26** Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27** What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in *your* ear, proclaim upon the housetops. **28** Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Revelation 21: 1-8, 22-27

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, **4** and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” **5** And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true. **6** Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. **7** He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. **8** But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Revelation 21: 22-27

22 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 on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. **24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. **25** In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; **26** and they will 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.