

Heaven is Closer Than You Think

Matthew 24:4-14

1 Peter 4:7

- 7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. (KJV)
- 7 The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers (NLT)

- Matthew 24:4-14

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5

- Heaven can be a test of faith or it can be the comfort of faith

- “Every Christian ought to have the Second Coming of Christ in his plans and program for the future” – J. Vernon McGee

- The purpose for the manger was the cross
- The purpose for the cross was Heaven

1 Peter 1:3-4

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

- Heaven is always on Jesus' mind because you are always on Jesus' mind
- The cross became our access to enter Heaven. By the blood of Jesus, we have been made right with God and now we have a home being prepared for us (John 14)

- “Did you ever stop to think that God is going to be as pleased to have you in Heaven as you are to be there” – A.W. Tozer

- “Is the Second Coming of Christ a part of your program or is it some ethereal, ephemeral thing that hangs out there in space like a will-o-the-wisp that has no real meaning in your life at all” – J. Vernon McGee

My view of Heaven shapes my priorities.

- How do I act?
- How do I think?
- How do I endure to the end?

Colossians 3:1-3

- Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

- I need to actually look forward to Heaven
- I need to actually live like Heaven exists
- I need to actually work like Heaven exists

- If I believe heaven exists, then don't I need to believe the Lake of Fire Exists? (Rev. 19&20)
- "I do think that a minister who can preach a sermon without addressing sinners does not know how to preach." – Charles Spurgeon

- If I believe heaven exists, then don't I need to believe an invisible war is taking place all around me? (Ephesians 6, 2 Corinthians 10:4)
- If there are battles then I need to keep my eyes heavenward and not on earthly struggles

- If I believe heaven exists, then don't I need to believe staying silent is being complicit in man's lost souls and not fighting for them is a sign of great apathy?
- "Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- If I believe I have received such grace, love and the precious gift of Jesus Christ and then not share it is the greatest act of coldness and uncaring I can do?
- “Wherever there are sinners, the weak, the sorrowful, the poor in the world that is where God goes.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- The truth of heaven should provide boldness and courage to us.

2 Peter 3:11-13

- 11 Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, 12 looking forward to the day of God and *hurrying it along*. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. 13 But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. (NLT)

- “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” – John Wesley
- “The world is perishing for lack of the knowledge of God and the Church is famishing for want of His Presence.” – A.W. Tozer