



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

As we saw in last week's devotional, there are a lot of great things about heaven – things too wonderful for us to even comprehend. The greatest thing about heaven, however, is not the streets of gold or the pearly gates; it's not having glorified bodies or being reunited with loved ones; it's not living eternally in a physically safe and morally pure environment. Without question, the absolutely greatest thing about heaven is that we will be able to see and worship God “*face to face*” (1Cor.13:12). What ultimately makes heaven “Heaven” is that Jesus Christ is there in glory – with the fullness of the Triune God (Rev.5:12-14; 7:9-10; 21:22-23; 22:1-5)!

In his excellent book, “God is the Gospel”, John Piper wrote about the crucial understanding Christians must have concerning the highest and greatest goal of the Christian life. In this, he passionately argued that God is the supreme center and greatest gift of the Gospel, and not all the benefits that the Gospel affords to believers (i.e., forgiveness, eternal life, hope, peace, holiness, etc.). Piper asked this important and provocative question:

“The critical question for our generation – and for every generation – is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?” (p.15).

The answer every Christian should be delighted and determined to shout is a resounding, “No!” For we know that heaven is not heaven if Christ is not there. Our supreme and final objective in this life, and in the eternal life to come, is God. Jesus said, “*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it*” (Matt.13:44-46). Ultimately, Christ is – in and of Himself – the invaluable treasure and the priceless pearl!

What will make heaven so wonderfully glorious is not its gates of pearl or streets of gold, but the full, infinite and unmitigated presence of Jesus Christ! As Christians, our highest and greatest joy is to dwell in the house of our Lord forever and ever! (Ps.23:6; 84:10). Heaven is the place where Christians from all over the earth will gather for all eternity to worship God – their Lord, Redeemer, Treasure, Friend, Creator, Heavenly Father – who is gloriously seated upon His throne!

*“I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish,
in order that I may gain Christ ... our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”
(Phil 3:8, 20).*

*“So we do not lose heart. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.
For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal”
(2Cor.4:16-18).*

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #16):

Exodus 9-12; 1 Samuel 26-31; Psalm 45-47; Job 31-32; Jeremiah 17-21; Mark 11-12; 1 Corinthians 15-16

Recommended Reading:

“Heaven: A World of Love” by Jonathan Edwards