

Heaven "Don't you want to go there?"

Scripture:

Introduction:

Have you ever been around a co-worker who has decided to go on a big vacation trip? Everything they say somehow gets connected to the trip that they are going on. They are just excited about it and they can't seem to think about anything else.

Have you felt this way before? So excited that you can't sleep and your ever thought seems to end up on some vacation trip? Oh that great excitement that comes through getting away from work for a little while and letting your hair down for a rest.

Transitional Statement:

Church how much more excited should we be about heaven....where we don't ever have to go back to work.

I'll have to admit that I am a bit confused when we sing that old song..... "heaven is a wonderful place....filled with mercy and grace" and see people yawning, balancing their check books, clipping their finder nails or just starrng off into space consumed with the cares of the world.

I. My goal here is to create or rekindle a desire within your heart for heaven

A. To motivate you to approach every day in your life with a view toward heaven

II. I would like to begin by talking about motive

A. I have heard many well intentioned Christians say that they can't wait to get to heaven

1. To see some loved one that has passed on
2. Or to be free of some physical dilemma
3. To escape the encumbrances of the flesh

* While all these things will certainly be part of heaven....

-If they stand as our motivation we are sadly missing the point.

-Because our motivation for heaven should be one single thing:

* An over-whelming desire to simply be in the presence of God.

* That is what heaven is about

III. When I think about the presence of God

A. I think about Rev 4-6

B. I think of Isaiah 6:1-4

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. NASU

C. I think about John 14:1-3

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "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.

IV. In the presence of God

A. We can bow before the Great I Am

-Hear Him speak our names

-And be surrounded by his glory

B. There we can worship God with the multitude of faithful servants

C. There we can meet our savior and pour out our hearts in humble thankfulness

D. There as the redeemed of God, we can all sing a new with spiritual voices our national anthem "How Great Thou Art"

E. There the worries of the flesh that so often rob our focus on God will be removed.

F. There we will be consumed by the peace of God.

G. For all eternity

V. Examples

A. I think of Moses on the Mount.

1. He wanted desperately to see the face of God. Exodus 33

2. Then there is Abraham who allowed the hope of heaven to lead his steps
Gen 11-22

3. Then the woman with the issue of blood Luke 8:43ff
4. Stephen Acts 7
5. Those of Hebrews 11

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 15:19

19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.