

TEN REASONS WHY HEAVEN IS 'OUT OF THIS WORLD'

Have you ever had one of those mornings of fantastic excitement anticipating the events of the day? Like going on a holiday?

But the problem is we don't always have a holiday to look forward to, do we? Therefore, our attitude is not always that positive, things are not always that easy to handle and we are not always that cheerful as we live this life. Sometimes there is not much joy seen in our eyes or heard in our voice.

So, for us to make it through this life with a bounce in our step - we need something to keep us going... we need something to look forward to... we need what the Bible calls "a living hope" (1Peter 1:3; Colossians 1:5). We need just such a hope that can never perish, spoil or fade away.

Today, if you are a Christian I want to give you something to look forward to. I want to give you a "before holiday" attitude about your life, I want to re-kindle anew the fires of your hope. And today if you are not a Christian, I pray that the hope that those who are in Christ have, will move you to accept Christ in order that you too 'may be born again into this living hope' (1Peter 1:3).

This world is not our home we are just passing through. We are headed home - we are going to heaven - and let me tell you heaven is going to be fantastic! It's going to be out of this world!

I'd like to briefly share with you 10 reasons why I think heaven is going to be wonderful.

1. WE'LL MEET JESUS — 2Corinthians 5:8

Only those who were alive when Jesus was here, saw him. All other Christians are waiting to see Him. We have joy in believing but as Peter put it, "You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him, you trust him; and even now you are happy with a glorious, inexpressible joy" (1Peter 1:8).

It will be a great day to meet the Saviour, who died to save us, rose again and lives in heaven. It will be wonderful to see the person we have believed in, trusted, and served.

2. WE'LL BE REWARDED — Matthew 16:27; Luke 6:35; 2Timothy 4:8

Jesus promised all who believe in him, that in heaven, they would be rewarded. "Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward" (Colossians 3:24). He will also reward faithful service. "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done" (Revelation 22:12; 1Corinthians 3).

3. WE'LL GET A NEW BODY—1Corinthians 15

Jesus promised his own a new body. The Bible says, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1John 3:2). "For while we live in this earthly body, we groan and are burdened, and we long to be clothed with our heavenly body, so that our earthly body will be replaced by an eternal one" (2 Corinthians 5:4).

In heaven we get a new body (Philippians 3:20-21). If we're honest we'd have to admit that living in this body is not so great. Our earthly body gets tired, feels pain, gets sick; and with age, moves slower, sags, our eyes dim, our ears dull, and things fall out.

And most people are not really happy with their body anyway; billions are spent every year to cover up, make up, lift up and change the flaws in our bodies. Well, in heaven we won't need to do that anymore, because -- we get a new body, a better one, an eternal one; one that doesn't get tired, feel pain, get sick, sag or fall out.

Getting a new body is one reason that heaven is going to be beautiful! But also ...

4. WE'LL GET TO LIVE IN A CUSTOM BUILT HOUSE - John 14:1-3 Hebrews 11:10

We all want a home. It's the basic of life. Living in a perfect house built by God is one reason why heaven is going to be great! We receive a specially prepared home, unlike anything we can imagine. No house rent to pay. No white ants to worry about. No repairs or paint jobs, etc, - It is built to last!

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:1-3).

5. WE'LL GET TO EAT GREAT FOOD

Who doesn't like to eat? A lot of people do, just check out the lines at Lone Star on a Friday or Saturday. People love to eat and they will wait hours to eat good food. Well in heaven we get to eat and I know it's going to be better than Hog's Breath.

How do I know we'll get to eat? Because the bible says so: "Then the angel said to me,

"Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast, the supper of the Lamb!" (Revelation 19:9).

If getting a new body, living in a perfect home, and eating great food appeals to you, then you'll find heaven to be more than you ever imagined.

6. WE'LL TALK WITH BIBLE CHARACTERS

For years we have heard of them, read about them; but when we get to heaven we'll get to meet them and talk with them. *"I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11).*

We'll get to: Ask Noah what it was like living in the ark... ask Abraham about his test of faith... ask Moses about parting the Red Sea... ask David what it was like to fight Goliath... and ask Mary about being Jesus' mum.

Who are you looking forward to talking with?

7. WE'LL SEE AND SPEAK WITH LOVED ONES

Another reason I think heaven will be great, is that I am looking forward to being with my loved ones again - aren't you? Those who have gone on before me. We are going to have a great time together - the best ever.

We read, *"...the Lord himself will come down from heaven, ... and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).*

Seeing and speaking with loved ones is one reason why heaven is going to be terrific.

8. WE'LL LIVE IN A PERFECT WORLD

Does living in this world ever get you down? Well, in **Revelation 21** we read where John is given a vision of a Heavenly City (home) coming down from heaven. It is going to be an incredibly perfect place; the world you've always dreamed of - true utopia!

9. WE'LL TAKE PART IN AWESOME WORSHIP SERVICES

Revelation 5:11-14; 7:9-12; 19:1-8 gives us a glimpse of this awesome worship. *"Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels... They encircled the throne and ... in a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!" (Rev. 5:11-12).*

Now I love great worship. I love meditative, warm and loving worship. I also love worship full of energy, excitement, smiling faces, lifted hearts and voices. Therefore, I look forward to worshipping in heaven - because it's going to be out of this world.

10. WE'LL BE WITH GOD FOREVER

In heaven we will be with Jesus and his family (1John 3:1-3). We will see God (Matthew 5:8) and be shown all around his eternal home, his kingdom (2Timothy 4:18) and live forever with him.

Are you ready to go to Heaven? Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour? (Read .. John 14:6).

For further help, please contact.

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