

Your True Hope Of Heaven

Ron Ware // John 14:1-4

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home.[a] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?[b] 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." John 14:1-4

Proverbs **Proverbs 29:18** "Where there is no vision, the people perish." If we don't understand God's big vision for the whole of our life, as His children and as citizens of His Kingdom, let's just say that we are destined to experience and accomplish far less than He has intended for us.

C.S. Lewis is quoted as having said "It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world, that they have become so ineffective in this one."

3 Questions to Answer

Why can you really hope in Heaven?

- 1. A promise is only as good as the promisor.
- 2. Who is Jesus? Not merely a man that He can lie. Son of God? What did He say?
- 3. What did Jesus' apostles say?
- 4. What can we see through John's prophetic visions in Revelation?

One of the criminals on the side of Jesus when He was crucified said to him, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:42-43 NLT

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going." John 14:1-4 NLT

"But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven." Luke 10:20 NLT

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. Think about the things of

heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. Colossians 3:1-4 NLT

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!). For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-6 NLT

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts *as a pledge*. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NIV

Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. 1 Corinthians 13:12 NLT

...God willed to make known what the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is, the mystery that is Christ in you, the hope of Glory. Colossians 1:27

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven; "The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever." Revelation 11:15 NLT

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:3-4 NLT

No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. And there will be no night there – no need for lamps or sun – for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:3-5 NLT

What does the Bible teach us that Heaven will be like?

- 1. Present heaven and future heaven
- 2. Able to see earth from heaven (Luke 15:7)
- 3. Remember & recognize
- 4. Old relationships renewed
- 5. New relationships formed
- 6. New heaven and new earth (new Jerusalem)
- 7. Everything will be glorified and renewed (Matthew 19:28; Isaiah 11:9-10)
- 8. Curse reversed

- 9. Old bodies made new (Philippians 3:21)
- 10. Overflowing with joy
- 11. Kingdom and government that we'll love
- 12. Fully ourselves and fully authentic
- 13. Eat and drink
- 14. Lost opportunities regained and new opportunities opened
- 15. Development of arts, culture, and innovation

How should you live now, in light of the world that awaits you?

With No fear

- 1. Sickness & death
- 2. Others & satan
- 3. This world

With Reprioritized values

- 1. Renewing of your mind.
- 2. Being born again.
- 3. Believing that Christ in me is the hope of glory.
- 4. Being willing to partake in His sufferings.
- 5. Being ready, willing, and able to share the Good News.
- 6. Becoming a student of Truth and His Word (Timothy.
- 7. Being faithful in prayer.
- 8. Living and communicating with a bolder witness (if it's true, you so want it for others); more important than a cure for cancer? We'd tell everyone, wouldn't we? We know the cure for every disease and sickness, even death, every sin!
- 9. Being willing to take on responsibilities and do things that cost you more cost and burden your more (this is His purpose for your life; go make disciples; are you willing to run the remainder of this race of your life, with this one pursuit as your most important prize?)
- 10. What are your gifts and influence mostly being used for? Are you using these for His Glory? You are so able to change your answer to this question, if not! Just a choice for you and I to make, right?

By loving God & loving others

- 1. His love
- 2. His Church
- 3. His leadership

Additional Resources:

What Heaven Will Be Like

<u>Heaven</u> - Randy Alcorn <u>50 Days of Heaven</u> - Randy Alcorn