



Everyone Wants to Go to Heaven

Hebrews 11:13-16

Heaven Is Place Prepared For Those Who Are Prepared

- Heb. 11:13-16 - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Everyone Wants to Go to Heaven

- “This World Is Not My Home” - Reflects faith
 - This world is not my home I'm just a passing through
 - My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue
 - The angels beckon me from heaven's open door
 - And I can't feel at home in this world anymore

Everyone Wants to Go to Heaven

- “Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven” (Kenny Chesney) - Reflects worldliness and unbelief
- Preacher told me last Sunday mornin’
- Son, you better start livin’ right
- You need to quit the women and whiskey
- And carrying on all night
- Don’t you wanna hear him call your name
- When you’re standin’ at the pearly gates
- I told the preacher, “Yes I do”
- But I hope they don’t call today
- I ain’t ready
- Everybody wants to go to heaven
- Have a mansion high above the clouds
- Everybody want to go to heaven
- But nobody want to go now
- Someday I want to see those streets of gold in my halo
- But I wouldn’t mind waitin’ at least a hundred years or so

Everyone Wants to Go to Heaven

- Two things to consider today:
 - The world does not know heaven (Misinformed, trivialized, mythologized)
 - The world would rather remain in this world (Some Christians, too)

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- Gal. 6:7-9 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

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- Rom. 2:5-10 - “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each one according to his deeds: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- We all stumble in this life, but only those who fail to repent will miss heaven
 - Luke 13:3 - “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”
 - 1Peter 4:3-5 - “For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- Some actually prefer to enjoy sin for a season in this world, rather than an eternity in heaven
 - Heb. 11:24-26 - “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- “An act that rejects immediate gratification in favor of long-term growth, health, or integrity is an act that derives from our high nature instead of our lower.” (Steven Pressfield, *The Art of War*)
- “Quick gratification of desires, often leads to low stratification in life.” (Constance Friday)
- Psalm 84:10 - “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- God calls the righteous, inviting them into His heaven
 - Matt 25:20-21, 34 - “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord... 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- The righteous anticipate hearing the call
 - Phil. 1:21-23 - “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”
- The unrighteous do not expect to be summoned from this life
 - Luke 12:20 - “But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- The first is prepared, not suicidal; the second is deliberately oblivious, not sophisticated
 - Psalm 52:5-9 - “God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. 6 The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying, 7 Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness. 8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. 9 I will praise You forever, Because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- The first is prepared, not suicidal; the second is deliberately oblivious, not sophisticated
 - Psalm 39:4-7 - “LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. 5 Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. 6 Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them. 7 And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- Desire to go to heaven is not the same thing as having a hope of heaven
 - Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- Desire to go to heaven is not the same thing as having a hope of heaven
 - Rom. 8:18-19, 24-25 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God... 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- Jesus promised dwellings in heaven for the faithful
 - John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And 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.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- The world has a different order of priorities -- Heaven later, world now -- will end in no heaven later
 - 1John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Life In This World Determines Eternity

- The righteous has a Divine set of priorities: dismiss the world and embrace the hope of heaven
 - Luke 9:22-25 - “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 23 Then He said to them all, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?”
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The righteous are in a hurry to prepare for heaven
 - Eph. 5:14-17 - “Therefore He says: Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The unrighteous postpone preparation for heaven in lieu of pleasure in this world
 - Amos 6:3-7 - “Woe to you who put far off the day of doom, Who cause the seat of violence to come near; 4 Who lie on beds of ivory, Stretch out on your couches, Eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall; 5 Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David; 6 Who drink wine from bowls, And anoint yourselves with the best ointments, But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph. 7 Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives, And those who recline at banquets shall be removed.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The unrighteous postpone preparation for heaven in lieu of pleasure in this world
 - Matt. 24:48-51 - “But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The righteous long for the true heaven
 - Rev. 21:22-27 - “But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The righteous long for the true heaven
 - Rev. 22:1-5 - “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The righteous are shaping their lives right now to be ready
 - 2Cor. 4:16-18 - “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The righteous are shaping their lives right now to be ready
 - 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- The righteous are shaping their lives right now to be ready
 - Matt. 5:29-30 - “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- Heaven and hell are real; nobody wants to go to hell; yet, most are living for it
 - Rom. 2:5 - “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God”
- The majority are making this choice
 - Matt. 7:13-14 - “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Eternity Must Shape Life In This World

- Do you want to go to heaven? If you really want to go, you will do something about it now.
 - Acts 24:25 - “Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”
 - 2Cor. 6:2 - “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”
 - Rom. 13:11-12 - “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”