

Sunday School Lesson

May 9, 2021 Grace Baptist Church

Kearneysville, West Virginia

## “The Reality of Heaven”

*John 14:1-4*

### Open:

- The importance of the knowledge of Heaven.
  - It keeps in perspective how fragile and how short life really is.
  - It shows me the true value of things in life. (Eternal Value or temporary enjoyment)
  - Brings comfort and peace in times of sorrow.

### Tran:

- Jesus was *teaching* his disciples to trust His promises in a time of emotional unrest. **vs. 16 & 18**
- Jesus was *preparing* his disciples to continue in courage and comfort without him as they obeyed His commandments. **vs. 12 & 21**
- Jesus was *hoping* his disciples would enjoy a little heaven on earth. **vs. 17 & 19**

## I. Where is heaven? Heaven is up.

- A. Elijah was taken up to Heaven – **II Kings 2:11** “*And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*”
- B. Jesus went up to Heaven – **Acts 1:9** “*And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.*”

## II. What is in Heaven?

- A. Mansions – **John 14:2** “*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*”
- B. God will be there. Stephen was allowed to look up and see Him. – **Acts 7: 55-56** “*But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, [56] And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.*”
- C. Walls of jasper, streets of gold, and beautiful jewels – **Rev. 21: 18-19a** “*And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. [19] And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones...*”

### III. What is not in Heaven?

- **Rev. 21:4 -5a** “*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. [5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new...*”
- A. No more tears
- B. No more death
- C. No more sorrow
- D. No more crying
- E. No more pain

### IV. Heaven immediately follows the death of the believer.

- A. The Bible is clear that after our last breath on earth, we will take our first breath in Heaven.
  - **II Cor. 5:8** “*We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*”
- B. When the beggar died, he was immediately taken to Heaven.
  - **Luke 16:22a** “*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom...*”

### V. Why should we look forward to Heaven?

- A. Reunion with our friends and loved ones who are saved.
- B. Removal of sin in our lives and from around us.
- C. Rejoicing because of who we are with and where we are.
- D. Rest because of the eternal peace in the presence of God.
- E. Rewards for our obedience to Christ while we were here on earth.
- F. Renewed Faith – Faith will become sight.

#### Close:

- How can I go to Heaven? **Rom. 10:13** “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”
- How can I enjoy Heaven more?
  - By preparing now. – Salvation & Service.
  - By developing appetites now for things that will be in Heaven – Time spent in God’s Word.
  - By getting to know your heavenly Father now.

#### **John 14:2**

“*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.*”