

Passion for Heaven

July 28, 2019

Paul's Passion

Phl 1:20-24 ESV –

- 20. as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
- 21. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- 22. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.
- 23. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.
- 24. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

Paul's Passion

2Cr 5:1-9 ESV –

1. For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
2. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,
3. if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.
4. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened--not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.
5. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.
6. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,
7. for we walk by faith, not by sight.
8. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
9. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Scenes from Heaven

“ Revelation 4

“ God's throne

“ 24 Elders

“ 4 Beasts

“ Their praise and worship

“ Revelation 21

“ New Jerusalem

“ Walls

“ Gates

“ Foundations

“ Proportions

“ God's presence

What do we know about Heaven?

- “ It's awesome
- “ God is there
- “ Saints are there
- “ Singing and praising
- “ No marriage
- “ It's rest and reward
- “ It's eternal
- “ The good place – not the other one...
- “ It's the happy ending

What do we know
about Heaven?

FOR MANY, IT "SOUNDS
LIKE A NICE PLACE TO
VISIT, BUT I WOULDN'T
WANT TO LIVE THERE..."

- “ It’s awesome
- “ God is there
- “ Saints are there
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- “ It’s rest and reward
- “ It’s eternal
- “ The good place
- “ Other one...
- “ It’s the happy ending

WHY DON'T WE ALWAYS FEEL A PASSION FOR HEAVEN?

- ◉ We don't understand / not real enough
 - The trouble with “happy endings”
 - What will we do there?
 - How can we be happy when loved ones are in Hell?

WHY DON'T WE ALWAYS FEEL A PASSION FOR HEAVEN?

- ◉ We don't understand / not real enough
- ◉ We're too comfortable / not ready
 - Rest when we're not tired?
 - "I'd like to experience <something> first, then heaven would be nice"
 - No longing in us that can't be satisfied here (uh-oh!)

WHY DON'T WE ALWAYS FEEL A PASSION FOR HEAVEN?

- ◉ We don't understand / not real enough
- ◉ We're too comfortable / not ready
- ◉ Our faith is weak
 - Certainty of heaven
 - Love for God, desire to be with Him
 - The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen



How to Build our Passion for Heaven

■ Fix your confidence

- Put in on God's grace, not ourselves [Eph 2:8-9]
- Believe the He is, and is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him [Heb 11:6]
- The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment to the day of judgment [2Pet 2:9]

■ Make your election sure

- Paul disciplined his body daily, so he wouldn't be disqualified! [1Co 9:27]
- An entrance will be richly provided for you, if you practice these qualities [2Pet 1]
- I know whom I have believed and I am convinced the He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day [2Ti 1:12]



How to Build our Passion for Heaven

- Confess, re-dedicate, and be grateful
 - Remove the weight of guilt
 - Live the gratitude with all of you
 - Forgetting what is behind, and straining forward [Phl 3:13-]
- Get to know God better
 - We want to be with those we love
 - To know Him is to love Him
 - The Bible is the key



How to Build our Passion for Heaven

- Bank your treasure

- Lay up treasures in heaven, your heart will be there
- Look for the city designed and built by God
- Acknowledge that you are a stranger and exile on the earth

- Get busy

- Remember why you are here
- Work up an appetite for rest
- Use all of your talents



How to Build our Passion for Heaven

- Sing, Fellowship, dwell
 - Emotionally refreshing
 - Support
 - peer influence



How to Build our Passion for Heaven

- Daily think about heaven

- what won't be there

- Tears (Rev 21:4)

- Night (Rev 22:1-5)

- Sin and sinful people (Rev 21:8,27)

- Secrets (1 Cor 4:5, 13:10)

- Fear (I John 4:18)

- Faith, Hope (Heb 11:1, 1 Cor 13:10)



How to Build our Passion for Heaven

- Daily think about heaven

- what will be

- New bodies (2 Cor 5:1-8)

- Love (1 Cor 13:8, I John 4:7-8)

- Singing/praising (Rev 14:3)

- Treasure (Heb 10:32-39)

- Rest (Rev 14:13)

- A Place for us (John 14:2-3)

What a Passion for Heaven Does

- “Helps us resist trading everything...for baubles
- “Strengthens us to bear, and be patient
- “Makes us happy, motivated, fearless!

We need to Make Heaven our Passion

“Make our desire to
depart and be with the
Father

“Long to put on our
heavenly dwelling

BE ABLE TO SAY
"EARTH IS A NICE
PLACE TO VISIT, BUT I
WOULDN'T WANT TO
STAY THERE!"

If you're not a Christian...

- ▣ Hear the word carefully
- ▣ Believe the evidence – Jesus is the Son of God!
- ▣ Repent of your sins
- ▣ Confess Jesus before men
- ▣ Be baptized for the remission of your sins

**MAKE HEAVEN
YOUR
DESTINATION!**