

**Series:** Heaven

**Sermon:** Longing for Heaven

**Scripture:** Various Texts

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

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## **1. Is there a heaven?**

Hebrews 11:13-16 (ESV)

*These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and grieved them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on earth. For people who speak thus make it clear they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*

John 14:1-3 (ESV)

*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself that where I am you may be also.*

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (ESV)

*For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling.*

1 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*

## **2. How does one get there?**

John 14:5-6 (ESV)

*And you know the way to where I am going. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 3:16 (ESV)

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

## **What is the point of heaven?**

Philippians 1:21-23 (ESV)

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which shall I choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*

"To want to die in order to be free from pain is one thing, but to want to pass across the veil to see the face of Christ is something else." **R.C. Sproul, *Unseen Realities***

"The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there? ...

"Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God." - **John Piper, *God is the Gospel***

"The bride eyes not her garment, but her dear bridegroom's face  
I will not gaze at glory, but on my King of grace;  
Not at the crown he gifteth, but on his pierced hand:  
The Lamb is all the glory of Emmanuel's land."

- **Anne Cousin, from the hymn *The Sands of Time are Sinking* (1860's)**