

The BEST thing about Heaven
Part 1

Seeing God

1/30/2011

Today we begin a new series, and our final series on Heaven. I have saved the absolute BEST thing about Heaven for last. Everything that I have shared with you to date about Heaven pales in comparison to what I want to share over the next few weeks. Now that is quite a statement when you consider that we have discussed:

A perfected and restored:
Cosmos, physical body, relationships with those who have gone before

And consider that every longing we have here is actually a longer for Heaven:

Meaningful work, meaningful relationships, beauty, a BIG house – designed with you in mind, time, position, power, resources, opportunity, and quality rest (ever wondered by people are always desiring a vacation?)

As wonderful as all of these are, they are not the best thing about Heaven. OK. So what is the best thing about Heaven?

Rev 22:4 says of God's servants on the New Earth,
"They will see his face."

- This is shocking news to those who understand Gods transcendence and inapproachability.

"Who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen." I Timothy 6:16

Moses asked God, "Show me your glory," God responded, "I will cause all of my goodness to pass in front of you...But you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live...When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will removed my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." Ex 33:18-23

"When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD... When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out." Ex 34:29, 33&34

I. Seeing God is the heart and soul Heaven.

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple." Ps 27:4

David seems to be seeking:

1. The perfect place

Which is Heaven

"That I may dwell in the house of the LORD..."

2. The perfect sight

"...to gaze on the beauty of the LORD..."

- To look upon God is to see the source of all other beauty.

3. The perfect worship experience

"...and to seek him in his temple."

II. Every other Heavenly pleasure will derive from and be secondary to His presence.

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Heb 4:16

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Mt 5:8

“You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”
Psalm 16:11

III. God’s greatest gift to us is, and will always be, Himself.

This is the wonder of our redemption – to be welcomed into the very presence of our Lord and to see him face-to-face.

“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day,” Gen 3:8

Can you imagine what it might be like on the New Earth:

- To hear God walking towards you in the morning to spend time with you?
- To maybe share a cup of coffee and to take a look at what you have been working on?
- To answer some questions or share some ideas?
- To have a laugh and to love on you?

Even now God welcomes us into His presence through prayer

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,” Heb 10:19