

Heaven: An introduction  
Part 1

Longing for our real home

2/28/2010

As human beings, we have a terminal disease called mortality.  
The current death rate is 100%.

“Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days;  
let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a  
mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before  
you. Each man's life is but a breath.” Psalm 39:4-5

**How do I know that heaven is real? Because...**

**1. The Bible tells me so.**

- The place of heaven is mentioned 407 times in the Bible.

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a  
Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts  
on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of  
God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”  
Colossians 3:1

“Set your hearts on” = is how we translate the Greek word –  
Zeteo.

Zeteo = our search or quest. Something that we are to pursue  
single-mindedly, passionately and aggressively.

The same word is used in the Gospel's to describe how:

- “the Son of Man came to *seek*...what was lost.” Lk 9:19
- How a shepherd looks for his lost sheep. Mt 18:12
- How a woman searches for her lost coin. Lk 15:8
- And a merchant searches for a fine pearl. Mt 13:45

So we can understand Paul's admonition in Col 3:1 as follows:  
“Diligently, actively, single-mindedly pursue the things above”  
– in a word, *Heaven*.

Now you have a clear Biblical reason to not miss a single  
sermon in the weeks and months to come.

To pursue Christ is to pursue Heaven.  
To pursue Heaven is to pursue Christ.

**2. Jesus told me so.**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in  
me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I  
would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for  
you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back  
and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

John 14:1-3

**3. Our hearts have longed for such a place.**

Whatever culture you stumble across, whatever time period of  
history, you will find some sort of belief in the afterlife. I don't  
believe God would plant in the heart a universal longing like  
that without making some provision for it.

The Roman catacombs, where the bodies of many martyred  
Christians were buried, contain tombs with the inscriptions  
such as these:

- In Christ, Alexander is not dead, but lives.
- One who lives with God.
- He was taken up into his eternal home.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. *He has also set eternity in the hearts of men*; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

C.S. Lewis wrote: “Most of us find it very difficult to want “Heaven” at all – except in so far as “Heaven: means meeting again our friends who have died. One reason for this difficulty is that we have not been trained: our whole education tends to fix our minds on this world. Another reason is that when the real want for Heaven is present in us, we do not recognize it.”

**Recognizing the “want of heaven”  
Have you ever wondered why, you ...**

- Want to go on a great vacation?  
Meaningful rest
- Want a beautiful home that perfectly fits your needs and wants?  
Meaningful settled-ness
- Ache for genuine intimacy?  
Meaningful relationships
- Are constantly on the look-out for a more meaningful job?  
Meaningful work

**4. Our hearts have felt the tug of heaven.**

Like the little boy flying his kite and the kite was out of sight and someone asked him where it was and he pointed up to the sky. They asked him how he knew it was there if he couldn't see it and he said, "I know it is there because I can feel it tug." We can know in a similar way that there is a Heaven, because we can feel the pull of it, the tug of it in our souls.