

WHY SOME DO NOT LONG FOR HEAVEN

I. LACK OF INTEREST.

- A. Just as those represented by the seed that fell among thorns (Luke 8:14).
 - 1. The things of the world steal their desire to learn more and do more in the service of the Lord.
 - 2. Their desire for heaven and its beauty is never enhanced.
- B. Many there are who seemingly have no interest in heaven, in salvation and in the Lord.
- C. The Lord's invitation is extended.
 - 1. Matthew 11:28-30.
 - 2. Revelation 22:17.
- D. The Lord's invitation rejected.
 - 1. Luke 14:15-24 - "and they all with one accord began to make excuse," vs. 18.
 - 2. Matthew 22:1-14 - "they would not come" - vs. 3.
- E. Why do some reject the Lord?
 - 1. In Psalm 106, the Psalmist retraces Israel's past from the time of the Exodus to that of the Babylonian captivity.
 - 2. In verse 24, he reminds them of the time when they were afraid at the report of the "10 unfaithful spies" and would not go take the promised land God had prepared for them.
 - 3. "Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not the his word" - Psalm 106:24 - they despised and believed not.
 - 4. Today, the promised land is heaven itself, yet many despise and believe not the word of our Lord.

II. LACK OF INVESTIGATION

- A. Soon spring will be upon us and then summer will follow and many of us will take vacations. Some will go to the beach; others will go to the mountains while still others may travel out West or even into foreign lands.
 - 1. You can be sure that wherever the destination there will be some investigation prior to going there.
 - 2. Investigate the area, things to do, places to eat, places to stay, etc...
- B. If only we would investigate the greatest destination of all, Heaven!
- C. Heaven Is Where Jesus Is. John 14:1-3
- D. Heaven Is A:
 - 1. Prepared Place. Revelation 21:2
 - a. The fact that it is pictured as coming down out of heaven is symbolic of the fact that it is of Divine origin. "All things are of God" 2 Corinthians 5:18
 - b. This is the city that has been prepared of which the patriarchs of old sought after. Hebrews 11:10
 - c. This city has been made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - 2. Purged Place. Revelation 21:4
 - a. Of Death—Death is the cause of much sorrow that we

experience here. But in the long view it is in the best interest of mankind.

1. Without death, the wicked would only grow more wicked, the sick would become sicker, the pain would only grow more intense---with no relief possible.
 2. For faithful Christians, it is the doorway through which we must pass in order to obtain eternal life in heaven.
 3. But in heaven there will be no more death. All who live there will have incorruptible, immortal, spiritual bodies.
 4. How thankful we should be that following our Lord's return, death will be utterly abolished. I Corinthians 15:25-28
- b. Of Sorrow. Revelation 21:4
 1. Many causes for sorrows in this life: sickness; financial problems; war; separation; marital difficulties; social dilemmas.
 2. All of these will be totally absent from heaven!
 - c. Of Crying
 1. Use words of song "No Tears In Heaven"
 2. Nothing to cause us to cry there!!
 - d. Of Pain
 1. Many people live in constant pain in their diseased or maimed physical bodies.
 2. In Heaven we will receive perfect spiritual bodies.
3. un-Polluted Place. Revelation 21:8
 - a. Fearful-"the cowardly and timid". These are those who shrink back and are unable to pay the cost of discipleship.
 - b. Unbelieving-those who have betrayed the trust committed unto them. Also includes the aliens who do not believe the Gospel.
 - c. Abominable-"those who are morally or spiritually foul", a person whose life is disgusting in the Lord's sight.
 - d. Murderers-"those who take another's life willfully and maliciously."
 - e. Fornicators-"those who are sexually immoral". This is the general classification for all sexual sins, including adultery, homosexuality, incest, bestiality, etc...
 - f. Sorcerers-"one who uses magical arts, especially a user of drugs, potions, spells and enchantments.
 - g. Idolaters-"worshippers of false gods whether visible or invisible".
 - h. Liars-"those who practice deceit or falsehood". This sin can be done by speaking or by remaining silent.
 4. Precious Place. Revelation 21:10-11
 - a. The glory of God fills the city.

- b. Just as the glory of God filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34), and the temple (I Kings 8:11).
- c. The flawless jasper, as clear as crystal, describes the perfect illumination of this spiritual city.
- 5. Protected Place. Revelation 21:12
 - a. Earthly cities in ancient days depended on the strength of their walls for protection from their enemies.
 - b. Heaven is pictured as having a great wall and twelve gates.
 - c. At each entrance is posted an angel.
 - d. Nothing will be able to enter into heaven to bother us.
- E. Prior to today, when was the last time you read about heaven?

III. LACK OF INVESTMENT

- A. Matthew 6:19-21
 - 1. Are you laying up treasure? Oh, Yes!!
 - 2. We all are, the question is, 'Is it the right type of treasure?'
- B. Must Invest Our Time
 - 1. Paul told young Timothy "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that I have committed unto him against that day".
 - 2. Galatians 6:9
 - 3. Ephesians 5:16 "Redeeming the time."
- C. Must Invest Our Talents
 - 1. I Corinthians 16:15 "I beseech you, brethren, ye know the house of Stephanas, that is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that ye have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints)."
 - a. The family of Stephanas were the first ones to obey the Gospel in that province of Greece where Corinth was located.
 - b. Paul points out that the members of the family had addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints. They had dedicated themselves to the work of assisting other Christians.
 - 2. In Ephesians 4:12, in the ASV the Lord's work is divided into three categories.
 - a. Perfecting of the saints—edifying members of the church.
 - b. Work of the ministry—helping the needy.
 - c. Building up of the body of Christ—the work of evangelizing.
 - 3. Are you investing your talents in these three areas?
- D. Must Invest Our Treasure
 - 1. Malachi 1:6-14
 - a. These people were polluting the altar of God by offering animals that were lame, blind or sick.
 - b. They also "snuffed" at God's work.
 - 2. Malachi 3:8-12
 - 3. Need to be busy putting treasure into the storehouse of heaven.
 - 4. Whoever complained about giving too much to the Lord and receiving too little in return?