

## I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”* So wrote the apostle Peter in the opening verses of 1 Peter. These promising words offer comfort and encouragement to the child of God to be true to the savior who gave Himself for the world.

If one asks a small child why he wants to go to heaven, he will often say, because God is there. One of the great appeals of heaven is definitely who is there. Not only is the Father there, but also the Son who gave His life for us, and the Holy Spirit who delivered the inspired words that guide our lives, to the New Testament writers. Not only will all three persons of the Godhead be in heaven, the great people of faith from every age will be there, too. What a thought it is that one can be in the company of men like Abraham, Moses, Paul, Peter, Stephen, and others. Other things make heaven appealing, too, such as the beauty, the lack of darkness, and no sorrow. Why would anyone not want to be there?

I want to go to heaven because of its beautiful purity. Not the fact that the streets are described as pure gold, but because of heaven's spiritual purity and beauty. Nothing that defiles or works abomination will invade heaven. (Rev. 21:27). Every day on this old earth the newspaper headlines and television newscasts are filled with stories of murders, thefts, abuse, and wickedness and perversions of every kind. Those who do those things will not be in heaven to mar its character nor its safety (Rev. 21:8). Heaven will not be merely tolerable; it will be perfect.

I want to go to heaven, because of its endurance. Heaven is eternal (2 Cor. 4:18). Men have attempted to illustrate eternity with various illustrations, but the very concept of eternity is beyond any real comprehension of man. Life here is short. Even if one lives well beyond the average lifespan, it is not even the blink of an eye when compared to eternity. Because of the company, the purity, and the endurance of heaven, every right thinking individual not only wants to be there himself, but to take someone else with him.

I want to go to heaven, because of the alternative. The alternative is to be cast into the lake of fire where there is outer darkness, the weeping and gnashing of teeth, the old deceiver the devil, and every abomination imaginable. Heaven is a place of reward. Hell is a place of punishment. Heaven is populated by the righteous; hell with the unrighteous. Hell is as impure as heaven is clean. The only thing hell has in common with heaven is that it is also everlasting. No one wants to go there. Obey the gospel, be faithful to Christ, and let's see one another in heaven!

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