

You Won't Like Heaven

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Although the word heaven is tossed around often today, most people use the word, not of the dwelling place of God nor of the eternal abode of His faithful children, but in the words of Webster, "a place or condition of utmost happiness." Certainly, everyone wants to 'go to heaven' or 'experience heaven', but if we consider what the Bible has to say about heaven, I am not sure that everyone who wants to go to heaven would even enjoy the eternal dwelling place of Almighty God.

Singing and Worship: Revelation 5:9-11

Heaven, even the very throne room of God, according to Revelation 5:9-11 is filled with song. Before His throne God's people come together to participate in a glorious 'congregational singing' (Rev. 14:3). Heaven's chorus is a song of victory (Rev. 7:9-10, 15:3). However, as one looks around the auditorium on Sunday after Sunday he will notice that some of the Lord's church do not engage themselves in congregational singing. Often excuses can be heard from those who do not lift their voices in praise to God, "I don't have a good voice," "I am singing on the inside," "I don't like to sing," or "Singing is for little kids." Those who would make such excuses violate God's command to sing (Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16), but the question is, 'will they like heaven?' What about the worship in heaven? It is continual (Rev. 4:10) and directed at God (Rev. 19:10, 22:8). If it is hard for us to even come to the worship assembly and enjoy that short time of praise to God with our fellow brothers and sisters while we are on earth, will we like heaven?

Service: Revelation 7:15-17, 22:3

Beside the continual worship and singing done before the throne of God, the Bible describes heaven as a place of service done by bondservants (slaves). "Therefore are they before the throne of God; and they serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them," (Rev. 7:15). "... And the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall serve him," (Rev. 22:3). The existence of the saved in heaven will be a life of rest in service to the Lamb and to the Father. What a glorious thought for those who love to labor in His kingdom on earth! But, for those who cannot muster enough energy to serve God daily in this life, will they like heaven?

Seconds: Revelation 21:1-3

Heaven will be a place of new things, different than this earth. The 'second heaven and second earth' is a new dwelling place for the saved of God. There will be a new city, the city of gold, the city foursquare built especially for God's children. With this new heaven and new earth, the old will be no more (Rev. 21:1, 2 Pet. 3:10-13). Unfortunately, some Christians have become much too attached to this earth at the expense of their relationship with Christ: cars, careers, houses, boats, money, television, and even people. We should put nothing on this earth above God, not even our mother or father (Matt. 10:37). When this earth passes away will those who glory in their possessions or worldly talents so openly today really like heaven tomorrow?

Seclusion: Revelation 21:27, 22:15

Heaven's seclusion is like no other. No unclean thing will be there (Rev. 21:27); in fact, only those who have entered in by the only Way (John 10:9, 14:6) will be in heaven. No

unrepented sinner will enter into the gates of the city (Rev. 21:8, 22:15). Even though this is a refuge for the people of God, many Christians would rather spend their time on earth with those outside the body of Christ. Oftentimes this is not for the purpose of influence or conversion (like Jesus, Mark 2:16-17) but for the purpose of entertainment. “Those ‘church-of-christers’ are too boring. They’re prudes,” some have said. If you do not like to spend time on earth with God’s children and that is the only company to be had in eternity, will you like heaven?

Certainly, heaven is the destination we should all desire and seek. It is the place God wants all of us to go (1 Tim. 2:4). We must remember, just as we are saved on God’s terms and worship on God’s terms, heaven is the dwelling place of God and set-up on His terms not ours. May we all execute faithful service today and dwell with Him and each other tomorrow and forever more.