

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Your Dream House"

INTRODUCTION

- **Context of John 14:1-6:** On the eve of His crucifixion, in the Upper Room discourse, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure.
 - "Troubled" hearts (v.1) - The disciples were struggling (14:27).
 - Jesus is trying to comfort the disciples with His replacement (14:16-18) and His return (14:1-6).

HEAVEN IS A PROMISED PLACE (14:1-3)

- **Verse 1** – "Let not your hearts be troubled." You are responsible for the condition of your heart.
 - Proverbs 4:23 – Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
 - The disciples were responsible to take the promise of verses 2-3 and apply it to the condition of their hearts (Verse 1 – "Believe. . .")

Three Reasons to Believe in Heaven:

1. **God's Word to Us** – The Bible teaches us about heaven (approximately 500 references in 60 books).
2. **God's Witness in Us** – Man has an innate belief in heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:11 – God has "put eternity into man's heart").
3. **God's World Around Us** – The world "under the sun" is not enough to satisfy us.

HEAVEN IS A PROPER PLACE (14:2-3)

- Jesus speaks of heaven as a **place**, not merely as a state of mind or an inner condition of happiness.
 - **v.2-3** – "I go to prepare a place for you. . . I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."
- The Bible describes heaven as a better country (Hebrews 11:16), a holy city (Revelation 21:10), the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2).

HEAVEN IS A PREPARED PLACE (14:3-6)

- Heaven is a **prepared place** for a **prepared people**. Are you prepared to go to heaven? (John 14:6)
 - "rooms" (v.2) has the idea of ample space and also intimacy, proximity – we will be near God.

Characteristics of Heaven:

1. **A Spacious Place** – Heaven is not cramped; Revelation 21-22 describes the new Jerusalem as being in the shape of a cube that is 1500 miles in each side. (2.25 million square miles)
2. **A Spectacular Place** – Think of the beauty of Eden which was made in six days. Consider that Jesus has been preparing a place for us for over 2,000 years since He's left this world.
3. **A Special Place** – What makes heaven special is Jesus' presence (14:3). God is there. "Wherever you are is my home"

HEAVEN IS A PROTECTED PLACE (14:6)

- **v.6** – "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Sermon Application Questions

October 20, 2019

PERSONAL RESPONSES

C.S. Lewis has written, "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."

Ponder this statement in light of the secular statement, "I can't get no satisfaction" (Mick Jagger).

1 What are some of the things that people pursue in this life in order to try to gain satisfaction? Why does this pursuit end in futility?

What are some Scriptures that speak to the satisfaction that we can find in Christ?

On the eve of His death, Jesus spoke to the condition of His disciples' hearts. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1)

2 Pastor Philip gave us the reminder that as believers, we are responsible for the condition of our hearts. In other words, we are responsible to apply the promises of God's Word to our own hearts so that we are not troubled or anxious.

What are some of the reasons that our hearts become anxious or troubled?

What are some of the promises of Scripture that soothe anxious hearts?

DIGGING DEEPER

1 Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 11:16

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Read Revelation 21:1-22:5. Remember that Pastor Philip taught us that heaven is an **actual place**, not merely a state of mind or feeling of happiness.

2 What are some of the truths in this passage that make you look forward to being in heaven?

What are some of the details in this passage that lead us to believe that heaven is a real place (with physical descriptions and geographical dimensions)?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

J.C. Ryle has written, “The man who is about to sail for Australia or New Zealand as a settler, is naturally anxious to know something about his future home, its climate, its employments, its inhabitants, its ways, its customs. All these are subjects of deep interest to him. . .

1 It would be strange indeed if you did not desire information about your new abode. Now surely, if we hope to dwell forever in that ‘better country, even a heavenly one,’ we ought to seek all the knowledge we can get about it. Before we go to our eternal home we should try to become acquainted with it.”

Evaluate your understanding of the “heavenly country” (Hebrews 11:16). How acquainted are you with “its inhabitants, its ways, its customs”?

What are some questions that you have about heaven?

Jesus taught us to pray “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

2 The Christian is to be a living representative of heavenly values in a secular world.

Based on your present understanding of heaven, what is one way that you can live out the priorities of heaven here on earth? (Hint: Review the activities of saints in heaven in last week’s sermon “During the Interval”).