

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** A Place Called Heaven

**SERMON REFERENCE:** John 14:1-3

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2286

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) John 14:1-3
- b) We are limited in our knowledge of Heaven.
  - i) The Bible tells us more about what will not be in Heaven than what will be there.
  - ii) But the Bible also gives us all we need to know about Heaven.
    - (1) What we do know leaves us in breathless wonder.
- c) God has purposely kept back from us some things about Heaven.
  - i) 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
  - ii) It is a sacred secret.
    - (1) God has saved something very wonderful for us: the place called Heaven.
- d) Polling data shows that a majority of Americans believe in Heaven and Hell.
  - i) Data also shows that only a very small percent of people believe that they are going to Hell.
    - (1) An old Gospel song says that everybody talking about Heaven aren't going there.
  - ii) Not everyone talking about Heaven is actually going to Heaven.
- e) Today's message will present some facts about Heaven.

2) HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE (2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-4)

- a) Heaven is not a condition or a state of mind.
  - i) Heaven is some place on God's map.
- b) 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
  - i) The Apostle Paul talked about his journey to Heaven.
  - ii) This passage tells us that we can go to Heaven out of our bodies or in our bodies.
  - iii) Heaven is such a real place that it takes care of a real body.
- c) 2 Corinthians 12:3-4
  - i) The Apostle Paul said that he was "caught up into Heaven."
  - ii) There is one place on the face of the Earth that is always up, and it is north.
    - (1) North is a fixed position.
- d) The Bible teaches that Heaven is north.
  - i) Isaiah 14:13-14
    - (1) This passage is referring to the fall of Satan from Heaven.
    - (2) Satan said that he was going above the stars to the place of God.
  - ii) Leviticus 1:11
    - (1) Speaks of killing the sacrifice, "*northward toward the Lord.*"
  - iii) Psalm 75:6-7
    - (1) In this passage, the inference is that promotion comes from God, and God is in the north.
- e) 2 Corinthians 12:2
  - i) Paul said that he was caught up into the third Heaven.

- ii) There are three Heavens:
    - (1) The atmospheric Heaven
      - (a) Jeremiah 15:3
    - (2) The stellar Heaven
      - (a) Isaiah 13:10
    - (3) Heaven, the abode of God
      - (a) This is a real place.
      - (b) Jesus is there in a body.
        - (i) Someone once said of these three Heavens, “The first we see by day, the second we see by night, and the third we see by faith.”
  - f) Heaven is a real place.
    - i) If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you will one day go there in a resurrected body and will have to have something to put your resurrected foot on.
- 3) THE SAVED GO TO HEAVEN IMMEDIATELY UPON DEATH (2 CORINTHIANS 5:6-8)
- a) You can go to Heaven in a body or out of the body.
    - i) You can be absent from your body and go to Heaven, or you can go to Heaven in a resurrected body.
  - b) The saints go immediately to Heaven upon death.
    - i) The soul does not sleep in the grave to await the resurrection.
    - ii) The body awaits the resurrection; the spirit goes immediately to be with Jesus.
      - (1) Luke 23:43-46
      - (2) Acts 7:56-59
  - c) There comes a time when we move out of this body and move into a position with our Lord in Heaven.
    - i) Philippians 1:23
- 4) WE WILL KNOW OUR LOVED ONES IN HEAVEN (1 CORINTHIANS 13:12)
- a) We will know them face to face.
  - b) 1 Corinthians 13:12
    - i) “In a glass darkly.”
      - (1) In Bible times, they did not have mirrors as we have today.
      - (2) They would take brass and polish it; it was a burnished brass reflector that they would look into.
        - (a) They could see but could not see clearly.
    - ii) We really do not know one another now.
      - (1) Instead of asking if we will know one another in Heaven, the real question is do we know one another now?
      - (2) 1 Samuel 16:7
        - (a) God doesn’t see as man sees; God looks on the heart.
  - c) 2 Samuel 12:16-23

- i) We go to our loved ones in Heaven.
  - d) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
    - i) The Apostle Paul points out that at the second coming of the Lord Jesus, we will be gathered not only to meet the Lord but also to meet one another.
      - (1) “The dead in Christ shall rise first” refers to the body that’s in the grave.
    - ii) 1 Thessalonians 5:15
  - e) When the saints of the Bible died, the Bible says that they went to be with their people.
    - i) Numbers 27:12
      - (1) Moses was gathered to his people.
    - ii) Genesis 25:8
      - (1) Abraham knew that he was going to have a family reunion.
    - iii) Genesis 35:29
      - (1) Isaac was gathered to his people.
    - iv) Genesis 49:33
      - (1) The body is still in the grave, but Jacob is with his people.
    - v) Matthew 8:11
      - (1) Jesus talked about a family reunion in Heaven.
      - (2) We will fellowship in Heaven with others; we will know them.
  - f) Matthew 17:1-13
    - i) We had a preview of Heaven when Jesus was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration.
      - (1) Elijah and Moses were there.
      - (2) The disciples had never met Elijah or Moses; they were from a different era.
        - (a) But the disciples recognized both Elijah and Moses.
  - g) We will know one another in Heaven.
- 5) THERE WILL BE JOYFUL ACTIVITY IN HEAVEN
- a) There are some myths about Heaven.
    - i) One of those myths is that we will wear a wooly robe with a halo and sit on a fluffy cloud plucking a harp.
    - ii) Another myth is that Heaven will be boring, and we will have to listen to anthems all day long.
      - (1) There will be music in Heaven, but it won’t be boring.
  - b) Heaven is rest, but it’s not laziness.
    - i) Adam had work to do before sin came into the Garden, but it wasn’t labor.
      - (1) It wasn’t by the sweat of his brow.
        - (a) It was to dress the garden and to keep it.
  - c) Luke 19:12-18
    - i) In this passage, our Lord talks about what we will do in Heaven.
    - ii) Jesus is the nobleman in this parable.

- iii) Our Lord has gone to Heaven, and He has given us certain abilities and has made us stewards over certain things.
  - iv) We are told to occupy until He comes.
    - (1) This does not mean to take up space.
    - (2) An occupation is something we do; we are to get busy.
  - v) We will be rewarded according to our labor.
    - (1) We are to serve Him.
  - d) We will help our God rule the vast universe.
    - i) 2 Timothy 2:12
    - ii) Revelation 7:15
      - (1) The greatest joy we have is serving the Lord.
      - (2) It is a privilege to serve the Lord.
  - e) We will serve God in Heaven, and it will be thrilling and blessed and joyful.
- 6) HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF ABSOLUTE PERFECTION
- a) In Heaven, there will be no more tears, no more sighing, no more crying, no more dying, and no more pain.
    - i) The former things are passed away.
    - ii) Revelation 21:4
  - b) Philippians 1:21-23
  - c) In Heaven, there will be no more sin, no sorrow, no suffering, no death, no disease, and no doubts.
  - d) Heaven is the presence of all that is good and the absence of all that is bad.
  - e) Heaven is all that the loving heart of God would desire, all that the incredible mind of God can conceive, and all that the almighty hand of God can create.
    - i) God loves us so much that He gave His Son to die for us.
      - (1) 1 John 4:10
    - ii) Put together, Heaven is God's love, God's mind and God's power.
      - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:9
  - f) Philippians 1:23
    - i) The phrase "far better" in the Greek language says "It is far, very much far, much more, better."
      - (1) The author is adding superlatives upon superlatives when talking about going to Heaven.
  - g) Even in a world that's marred by sin, we can see God's creative genius and see a glimpse of that glory.
    - i) We see God's creative genius when we look at a mountain range or see a sculpted rose or a rainbow or a glorious sunset or the delicate wing of a butterfly.
    - ii) Heaven will be the consummate work of God's creative genius.
  - h) John 14:2
    - i) This is why Heaven will be a place of absolute perfection.
  - i) The streets of gold, walls of jasper and gates of gold are symbols of greater glory and greater things.

- i) The eye cannot see nor the ear hear nor can the heart conceive of what Heaven is going to be like.
- 7) JESUS IS THE CROWNING OF HEAVEN (JOHN 14:2-3)
- a) Heaven is not primarily a place, Heaven is also a person.
    - i) John 14:2-3
      - (1) Are you looking forward to being with Jesus?
      - (2) If you're not looking forward to being with Jesus, if you're just waiting for an eternal vacation, then you're not going to Heaven.
    - ii) Heaven is where Jesus is.
  - b) Jesus is what makes Heaven, Heaven.
  - c) John 17:24
    - i) It is alright to pray for the healing of our sick loved ones, but Jesus is also praying that we be with Him.
    - ii) It is not a bad thing when a loved one steps over into the presence of Jesus to behold His glory.
  - d) It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.
- 8) ONLY THE REDEEMED ARE GOING TO HEAVEN (JOHN 3:3)
- a) You must be Heaven-born to be Heaven-bound.
    - i) John 3:3
      - (1) You must be born again.
      - (2) You've had an earthly birth, and you need a heavenly birth.
  - b) Revelation 7:14
    - i) Those in Heaven are those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb.
      - (1) No church denomination ever got anyone to Heaven.
      - (2) No one ever went to Heaven because they were a church member.
      - (3) No one ever went to Heaven for being a good person.
    - ii) "Have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" means that they have received Christ and His atoning blood for their sin.
  - c) Revelation 21:27
    - i) Being a moral person does not get you into Heaven.
    - ii) Being a humanitarian does not get you into Heaven.
    - iii) Doing good deeds does not get you into Heaven.
    - iv) Being a religious person does not get you into Heaven.
      - (1) Matthew 7:23
    - v) Only those who have been born again by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary will enter into Heaven.
- 9) CONCLUSION
- a) Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ?
  - b) Today, tell the Lord Jesus, "Lord, I'm not trusting my honesty, my charity or my religion. Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for me. I trust you."

- i) Ask Jesus to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16