




HEAVEN
& HELL

Answering Your Questions.

Sermon  **SNAPSHOTS**

SEEING HEAVEN AS OUR “HOME”

Hebrews 11:13-16 pictures heaven as our “*homeland*” (v.14). Truly, we’re “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (v.13). The image of heaven as our “*home*” paints a vivid picture! Many hold fond memories of “*home*” (from childhood and/or currently). “*Home*” is usually a refuge from the trials of life; and the HOPE of going home is an “anchor of the soul” (Hb.6:19). So, let’s consider what’s so great about going home.

Home is a place prepared JUST FOR ME

- Consider how my (our) earthly home is prepared “just for me”
- The decor, furniture, paint, yard, etc. reflect my (our) personal taste
- Likewise, God has envisioned a heavenly home “just for me” (Mt.25:34)
- Christ is there right now, making all things ready “for me” (Jn.14:1-3)

Home is a place of REST

- How nice it is to just “go home” after a long, hard day -- or after a long trip!
- Israel had such a “rest” after 430 years of hard labor (Ex.12:40; Josh.21:43-45)
- Today, we enter OUR rest at home -- in Heaven! (Hb.4:8-11; Rv.14:13)
- Consider the song: “*I’m gonna sit down and rest a little while*” (Rm.8:18)

Home is a place of SECURITY

- We go home at night, and lock our doors for security – yet we are not secure!
- However, in our Heavenly home, we will have *perfect security* from all evil!
- Consider some Scriptures on this point: Mt.6:19-20; Rv.21:8,27; and 22:14-15
- Indeed, God Himself, will be our “security light” to ward off evil! (Rv.22:5)

Home is a place of LOVE AND COMFORT

- To go to our earthly home, and be with our spouse and children, is a great blessing!
- To go home to see “mommy and daddy,” and to be comforted, is a great blessing!
- But the greatest blessing of all will be to go our ultimate home in HEAVEN! (Rv.21:4)
- By contrast, consider another place – where there are NO blessings! (Lk.16:19-25)

Home is a place of TOGETHERNESS

- Aren’t “family reunions” wonderful? We get to see everyone again and “catch up!”
- Contrast that with the sadness felt when a loved one leaves, moves, or passes away
- However, in our heavenly home, the faithful saints of God will never again be parted!
- Not from God (1Th.4:17), family (2Sm.12:23), saints (Rv.21:24), or blessings (Rv.22:1-5)

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS!

- I love my earthly home! When I’m gone, I long to be there. My heart is there!
- It’s **MY** place! It’s where I can best **REST!** It’s where I’m most **SECURE!**
- It’s where I feel the most **LOVED!** It where my family can be **TOGETHER!**
- Your **ULTIMATE** home will be where your heart is! (Mt.6:19-21; Hb.11:16; 2Cor.5:1-8)



Aren’t you looking forward to that “home” which God has provided for us? But only those who are *prepared* can enter in (Mt.7:21). My hope is that you will begin to make those preparations right now!

SOME THINGS THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT "HELL"

In spite of clear Bible teaching, there are many who deny the existence of Hell. The New Testament uses the word "Hell" (Gehenna) twelve times. In this lesson, we'll study this word, and what those 12 passages say about it. We will also look at some other passages which add to the New Testament concept of "Hell"...

The actual definition of the word "hell"

- It is from the Greek word, "gehenna," literally, *"the valley of Hinnom"* (South of Jerusalem)
- In the OT, was a place of pagan worship, where fires burned continually (2Ch.33:1-6)
- In the NT, was a burning "garbage dump" for Jerusalem, where maggots fed on dead criminals!
- *Gehenna painted a vivid "picture" of the eternal destiny of the wicked!* (Mk.9:43-44)

The usages which describe the word "hell"

- It is a place of "fire" (Mt.5:22) and of "perishing" (Mt.5:29-30)
- A place where God will "destroy **both soul and body**" (Mt.10:28)
- A place of for "sons" (Mt.23:15) of "condemnation" (Mt.23:33)
- A place of *eternal torment* (Mk.9:43-48; cf. Mt.25:46; Rv.14:9-11)

Other references to the concept of "hell"

- It is the "lake of fire," which is the "second death" (Rv.14:9-11; 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8)
- It is the "outer darkness" where there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Mt.8:12)
- NOTE: Is this *literal*? Consider: Is Heaven made of *literal* jewels? (Rv.21:10,18-21)
- Just as Heaven will far exceed its descriptions (limited by human language), so will Hell!

A description of the inhabitants of "hell"

- Those whose names are not "written in the Book of Life" (Rv.20:11-15)
- Those who have failed to "overcome" through Jesus Christ (Rv.21:6-8)
- Those who fail to "do His [i.e., God's] commandments" (Rv.22:14-15)
- Those who "do not know God, and... do not obey the gospel" (2Th.1:7-9)

The bottom line is that Hell is real! It is the place (or condition) of torment for the wicked after the final judgment at the end of time (Mt.25:46). We must live in such a way as to avoid this terrible place! The only way to do that is to find forgiveness in Christ (Ac.2:38). If we're faithful, we can go "home" to Heaven!!

-Lanny Smith



Fishers Church of Christ

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Our Eldership

Jan Boser (H) 773-3178 (C) 509-1828
Al Easter (H) 585-9846 (C) 698-1846
Randy Shouse 570-4908
Lanny Smith 770-8077

Contact Information

10082 East 126th Street
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 577-3788

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