

Title: The Glory of Heaven

Passage: John 17:24-26

Context of Passage:

Jesus' prayer concerned 7 specific requests made to God the Father (v.9-23) where He prayed for our:

- Eternal security
- Joy
- Safety
- Sanctity/Purity
- Unity
- Charity
- Eternal destiny

Passage: John 17:24-26

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Question:

- What is the glory of heaven?
- What will we see and experience when we get to heaven?

2 Peter 3:13

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Reflection:

- How often do you think about:
 - heaven?
 - being literally in the presence of Christ and seeing him face-to-face?

Philippians 1:23

I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

2 Corinthians 5:8

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Psalms 27:4

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

- Reflection: How much do we long for heaven?
- Distracting temptations are real - ABC temptations of
 - Accumulation of material things,
 - Busyness of material life, and
 - Comforts of material surroundings

Jesus Request: Eternal Destiny

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am,

- How glorious and wonderful that Jesus would want us to be with Him!

whom you have given me

- What gives us value? We are the Father's chosen love gifts to the Son.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

- Why did God choose us?
 - according to the purpose of his will,
 - to the praise of his glorious grace,
 - with which he has blessed us in the Beloved (in Christ)

Overview

Question: Why would Jesus pray for us to be with Him in heaven?

Acts 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Answer: Two reasons Jesus wants you in heaven:

- To see His glory
- To know His love

I. To See God's Glory

to see my glory that you have given me

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"

The glory of heaven is Jesus! See Revelation 21-22

- Revelation = revelation/unveiling of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:1,17a

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John...When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:9-11, 19a

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal...The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel...

Revelation 21:22-23

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

- God's glory is infinitely bright and clear.

Revelation 22:3-5

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

What will make heaven glorious?

- The presence of the glory of the Lamb, Jesus Christ!

Hebrews 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

II. To Know God's Love

because you loved me before the foundation of the world...that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

- God the Father's love for the Son
- In Christ, we are each loved
- In heaven, we will see and know the extent and depth of God the Father's love.

Know = personally experience

- Not merely to affirm or to be aware of in the mind.
- What? God's love - fully and completely.

1 Corinthians 15:49

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

the love with which you have loved me

- Amazing eternal, unconditional, everlasting love of God!

1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be

has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Heaven is not about what your experience will be but more about God's glory and God's love.

John 14:2-6

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Related Passages:

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Revelation 7:9-12

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."