

June 9, 2021

The House of the Lord

Last week we considered God's two encouragements for this life, goodness and mercy. As a child of God, we can have confidence in God's goodness and mercy toward us. The psalmist then ends the Psalm with the greatest hope of the believer, "and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Once again it is worth noting that this promise is only for those who belong to the shepherd. There are many who think or hope they are going to heaven who will be greatly distressed to find themselves cast out into the Lake of Fire. Consider **Matthew 7:21-23**. Why were these cast out and forbidden the promise of heaven? Go back and read **Matthew 7:13-14**. Which path are the majority of people on? Does it matter which path you take and if so, why? If you want to arrive at a certain destination, it is imperative that you follow the directions or path that leads to the destination. Good intentions will not help you if you are lost. In **John 14:6** Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father, but by me." In identifying Himself as the way to heaven, Jesus ruled out all other ways. There is only one way to heaven and that is through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

In **Psalm 23:6**, what did David call heaven? Read **John 14:1-3**. What did Jesus call heaven? Whenever I return to the farm where I was raised, I always refer to it as "going home." My father's house is my home because I am his child. The same applies in the spiritual realm. Heaven is God's house, and because I am God's child, His house is my home. Is heaven your home? Is the Lord your shepherd? Are you on the right path, the way that leads to heaven? If you are not on the right path, how do you get on the right path?

In John 3, Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." According to **Romans 10:9-10**, what two things are necessary to be saved? Belief is inward faith. Confession is the outward expression of faith. In confessing, we are agreeing with God that first, we are condemned as sinners, second, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sin. He died in our place, shedding His blood for our sin, and third, only by calling on Christ can we be saved, **Romans 10:13**. When we call upon Christ for salvation, agreeing with God about our sin and His Son, Jesus Christ, our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Your name is either written in the Book of Life or it is not. According to **Revelation 20:15**, if it is not, what will happen? Speaking of heaven, who does **Revelation 21:27** say will enter into heaven? If your name is not written in the Book of Life before you appear before the judgment bar of God, it will be too late.

How long will the believers dwell in heaven? As mentioned previously, heaven is the believer's hope. When we think of hope, we often include an element of doubt, but the Bible word for hope means a surety. There is no doubt in Biblical hope. I use the following acrostic to define hope, Heaven Our Promised Eternity. Heaven is an eternal abode. According to **Revelation 22:5**, how long will the believers reign with the Lord? If you want to know what heaven is like, take some time to read **Revelation 21 and 22**. Write down all the descriptive characteristics you can find about heaven. If you have not already, make sure of heaven today. Call upon the Lord and trust Him as your personal Lord and Savior. Purpose to live your life for Him no matter the cost, knowing it will be worth it all, when we see Christ.