

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Douglas' mother, Mr. and Mrs. Hadley, Mrs. Kelly Hall, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, Mrs. Lowery, Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Siota, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website:
www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com.
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Heaven

By Derek Long

Christians possess a hope of one day being in heaven. Colossians 1:5 says, "because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel." 1 Peter 1:4 describes our living hope as being, "to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you." It is clear the one hope all Christians should share in common is a hope of spending eternity in heaven (Ephesians 4:4). Why is heaven something worthy of looking forward to?

Heaven will be a place free from the consequences of sin. Death entered the world as a result of sin. As a consequence of sin entering into the world, all men die (Hebrews 9:27). Heaven is a place where death exists no longer (Revelation 21:4). Revelation 22:3 says, "And there shall be no more curse." God placed a curse upon man and

woman after sin entered the world and in heaven we will not be living under this curse.

Heaven will be a place free from wickedness. In this world, we are constantly surrounded by wickedness in the lives of those around us. The wicked conduct of others should cause us to be oppressed and tormented as Lot was in Sodom (2 Peter 2:7-8). Heaven will be a place free from the wickedness we must live around in this world. Revelation 21:27 says, “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” Revelation 22:14-15 says, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.” Heaven will be free from the defilement brought into the world by sin (1 Peter 1:4).

Heaven will be a place we can be eternally. Heaven is a place we never have to leave. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 says, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” Heaven is not going to be a place we enjoy for a little while and then have to leave for somewhere else. Hebrews 13:14 says, “For here we have no continuing city but we seek the one to come.” It is easy to forget everything in this life is temporary even those things which we might think we will enjoy for many years. God’s word teaches us to remember everything here is temporary and heaven is a place which is eternal. The fact heaven is eternal

shows why it is important for us to lay up treasure in heaven instead of on earth (Matthew 6:19-21).

Heaven will be a place where we will see God as He is. John writes about the future state of the righteous and says, “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” To see God as He is truly has to be one of the greatest things about heaven. Revelation 22:4 says, “They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”

Heaven will be surely worth whatever sacrifices we must make to get there because of these points and other things God’s word tells us about it. Romans 8:18 says, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”