

Heaven—The Best is Yet to Come!

1 Peter 1:3-5

INTRODUCTION:

A. **Illustration:** A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things in order, she contacted her minister and asked him to come to her house to discuss some of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at her funeral service, what Scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. She requested to be buried with her favorite Bible.

As the minister prepared to leave, the woman suddenly remembered something else. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" said the minister.

"This is important," the woman said. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The minister stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say.

The woman explained. "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part of the meal because I knew something better was coming—like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie.

"So, when people see me in that casket with a fork in my hand and they ask, 'What's with the fork?' I want you to tell them: '**Keep your fork. The best is yet to come!**' "

B. **1 Peter 1:3-5** – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an inheritance (1) incorruptible and (2) undefiled and that (3) does not fade away, (4) reserved in heaven for you,

who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

1. Fact 1 - Heaven is an **INHERITANCE**.

2. Fact 2 - Heaven is **INCORRUPTIBLE**.

3. Fact 3 - Heaven is **UNDEFILED**.

4. Fact 4 - Heaven **DOES NOT FADE WAY**.

5. Fact 5 - The inheritance of Heaven is **RESERVED**.

C. All that we have ever said about Heaven thus far has but merely scratched the surface of what Heaven is really like. It will be far more wonderful than any of us can ever imagine while we tabernacle in this flesh. Keep your spiritual fork hand, so to speak, the best is yet to come.

THE PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

- A. A Prepared Place
- B. A Populated Place
- C. A Perpetual Place
- D. A Perfect Place . . . A perfect place with:
 - 1. Perfect existence
 - 2. Perfect Peace
 - 3. Perfect joy
 - 4. Perfect worship
 - 5. Perfect service

THE PEOPLE IN HEAVEN

- A. A redeemed people
- B. A righteous people
- C. A rejoicing people
 - 1. The presence of Christ will be enjoyed
Illustration: “There is a story told of a dying man who asked his Christian doctor to tell him something about the place to which he was going. As the doctor fumbled for a reply, he heard a scratching at the door, and he had his answer. "Do you hear that?" he asked his patient. "It's my dog. I left him downstairs, but he has grown impatient, and has come up and hears my voice. He has no notion what is inside this door, but he knows that I am here. Isn't it the same with you? You don't know what lies beyond the Door, but you know that your Master is there.”
 - 2. Saved love ones will be present.
Illustration: An unknown author once said, “As a boy, I thought of heaven as a city with domes, spires, and beautiful streets, inhabited by angels. By and by my little brother died, and I thought of heaven much as before, but with one inhabitant that I knew. Then another died, and then some of my acquaintances, so in time I began to think of heaven as containing several people that I knew. But it was not until one of my own little children died that I began to think I had treasure in heaven myself. Afterward another went, and yet another. By that time I had so many acquaintances and children in heaven that I no more thought of it as a city merely with streets of gold but as a place full of inhabitants. Now there are so many loved ones there I sometimes think I know more people in heaven than I do on earth.”
 - 3. All you meet there will be holy and sinless
 - 4. Perfect rest will be enjoyed
 - 5. Rewards will be administered

FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN

- A. Heaven is a real place! John 14:1-3
 - 1. Heaven is not a fairytale!

2. Heaven is not imaginary!
 3. Heaven is not a land of make-believe!
 4. Heaven is real!
- B. All who will be there will be there to join that heavenly throng, will be there by choice. Revelation 19:6
1. Yes . . . Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.
 2. Yes . . . Heaven is a chosen place by people who chose to obey and serve God.
- C. Heaven is a place where the ills of time will be no more. Revelation 21:4
- D. Heaven is a place of unimaginable joy.
- E. Heaven will be an amazing city.
1. The wall of the city will be 216 feet thick and 1,500 miles high
 2. There will be 12 gates made of pearl . . . each gate will have an angel
 3. There will be 12 foundation stones each consisting of different precious stones
 4. Streets of pure gold like transparent glass.
 5. A river will run thru it - giving eternal refreshment
 6. God will be seated at His Throne as the monarch of the universe
 7. Man will have access to the tree of life
- F. In Heaven there will be . . .
1. No sea. Revelation 21:12
 2. No sin. Revelation 21:27
 3. No death. Revelation 21:4
 4. No mourning. Revelation 21:4
 5. No crying. Revelation 21:4
 6. No pain. Revelation 21:4
 7. No night. Revelation 21:25
 8. No temple. Revelation 21:22
 9. No corruption. Revelation 22:3
 10. No sun. Revelation 21:23
 11. No moon. Revelation 21:23
 12. No satanic opposition . . . Satan has been moved out and you will be moved in! Revelation 20:10
- NOTE: It will take you saying “**YES**” to Christ in order to reach those 12 “**NOs**”
- G. Heaven is a place that will never end . . . Time will be irrelevant. 2 Peter 3:8
- H. In Heaven you won't be alone . . . A great heavenly host will be there. Revelation 5:11
- I. Heaven is a place of coronation . . . A crown of life awaits those welcomed there.
- J. Heaven is a place where you will hear the real Hallelujah chorus.

THE PATH TO HEAVEN

- A. Is an obvious path
- B. Is an open path

CONCLUSION:

- A. Review: In this series of studies we have seven questions:
 1. What is Heaven?
 2. Where is Heaven?
 3. What is Heaven really like?
 4. What else do we know about Heaven?
 5. What do we know about our bodies in Heaven?
 6. What about the population of Heaven, who will, and will not, be there?
 7. Will we know one another in Heaven?
- B. Heaven has too much to offer for you to miss it. Heaven is a place wherein...
 1. No shadow will ever cross it.
 2. No army will ever march.
 3. No problems will ever plague it.
 4. No fears nor tears nor jeers will ever be seen.
 5. No life-changing crisis or decisions will ever have to be faced.
 6. No temptations will ever come to you.
 7. You will be equal to the very angels of God.
 8. You will reside in the perfection of God's paradise.
 9. You will be surrounded with the light of His glorious countenance.
 10. You will experience a peace, the likes of which you have never imagined.
 11. You will share in the fellowship of the redeemed of all the ages, including the Patriarchal, Mosaical, and Christian Ages of Bible time.
 12. You will be in the presence and fellowship of Almighty God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. The Heavenly three who will have done so much to get you there will reside there as well.
- C. Where is Heaven? It is at the end of an obedient Christ-serving life.
Where is Hell? It is at the end of a disobedient and selfish life.
- D. Some concluding thoughts.
 1. **Jesus wore the crown of thorns so you could wear the crown of life!**
 2. Jesus was content to be born in a stable so we could live in heavenly mansions when we die.
 3. Many buy cemetery plots and make pre-funeral arrangements in order to die, but make not preparations to live after death.
 4. Christ is the only way to Heaven. All other paths are detours to doom.
 5. The doors of Heaven are open to everyone whose heart is open to God.
 6. A man who walks with God always gets to his destination.
 7. There is **one way** to stay out of hell . . . but there is **no way** to get out of hell.

8. Where you go hereafter depends on what you go after here.

9. **Christians never meet for the last time.**

E. Concerning Heaven:

1. God **THOUGHT** it.

2. Christ **BOUGHT** it.

3. Satan **FOUGHT** it.

4. The Holy Spirit **TAUGHT** it.

5. The Scriptures **CAUGHT** it.

6. Have you **SOUGHT** it?

F. **Psalm 9:10** – “. . . For You, O Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You.”

1. If you are forsaken, it is only because you have forsaken Him.

2. If you are rejected, it is only because you have rejected Him.

3. If you are turned away, it is only because you have turned Him away.

4. It's not your **WILL** that will keep you out of Heaven . . . It's your **WON'T!**

a. Won't believe

b. Won't obey

c. Won't be faithful

G. **People who will be in Heaven will be there by choice!** . . . How have you chosen? . . . It is not too late to choose . . . Choose today!

H. **1 Peter 1:3-5** – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance (1) incorruptible and (2) undefiled and that (3) does not fade away, (4) reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

I. The Devil wants Heaven's mansions empty . . . God wants them filled.

1. Where Satan was (Heaven) . . . God wants you to be.

2. Where Satan will be (Hell) . . . God does not want you to go.

J. Heaven can be yours . . . But it has to be by your choice.

1. Christ makes you worthy of Heaven **1 John 1:7** – “. . . The blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.”

2. Heaven's gate is the door of your heart. **Revelation 3:20** – “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

K. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**