



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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A Heaven to Gain!

Focus Verses: Revelation 21:4-5 - ⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. ⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Lesson Text: Revelation 21

Truth About God: Jesus has prepared a heavenly home for His church.

Truth For My Life: I will live with Heaven in mind.

The maniacal Roman emperor Domitian ordered John “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:20) to be boiled in oil and exiled to a prison island to die. Certainly, he faced intense persecution. But there on the unforgiving, rocky island of Patmos, separated by a seemingly endless sea from all his friends and family, Jesus gifted John with the greatest vision of his life. His vision came as hope while he was exiled on the island of Patmos. John glimpsed Jesus, and John glimpsed Heaven. He saw who and what awaited him on the other side of this life.

As John wrote of Heaven, he wrote what he did not see. In our world, we struggle with pain, death, sorrow, hatred, racism, violence—all poisonous fruit of sin. Here people are disappointed, discouraged, rejected, abandoned, betrayed, lied to, lied on, deceived, and feel invisible. They battle cancer and other diseases, financial struggles, relationship problems, and addictions of all kinds. Families are torn apart by divorce, mental illness, promiscuity, domestic violence, and poverty. But not in Heaven.

John wrote: “*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away*” (Revelation 21:4). He also points out that there was no more sea was his poetic way of saying there will be no separation in Heaven.

Heaven is a topic of conversation and debate for many Christians and non-Christians alike. What will it be like? **Who will be there?** How can we make it there? What we do know about Heaven we find throughout Scripture with the most abundance of information coming from the Book of Revelation. It declares we will dwell with God forever in a wondrous place without sin or evil. **We will spend our days worshiping our God with an untold number of other Christians from every nation, tribe, and tongue.** Heaven will be perfect beyond what we can comprehend.

Heaven will be adorned with Jasper walls, golden streets, bejeweled foundations. There Jesus Christ, God incarnate, reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords. His perfect will is done in Heaven, which is why we pray for His will to also be done on earth. In Heaven there is no debating over who God is or if God is. In Heaven everyone worships Jesus Christ as Almighty God. **Being with Jesus should be our main reason to keep fighting the good fight and finishing this race.**

Although John walked with Jesus for three years, he finally saw Him as He is. And John promised us one day we would, too. “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*” (1 John 3:2).

John did not have to wait until He made it to Heaven to worship Jesus like the angels and elders are worshiping in Heaven right now. We praise God here because God is worthy, and we are practicing for when we get there. If you love to worship Jesus here, you are going to love Heaven.

No one needs to be sold on going to Heaven; we all want to go. But we need to be reminded that this world is not our home. Even our darkest days here are not worthy to be compared to the glory over there. If you are ready for Heaven, continue to faithfully live ready and help others get ready. If you are not right with God right now, respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ the same way the first-century church responded: repent of your sins, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. It is the way we are born again, made right with God, and ready for Heaven.