

**Subject: *Is Heaven in Your Future?***

**Scripture: *John 14:1-6***

Randy Alcorn writes: “As human beings, we have a terminal disease called *mortality*. The current death rate is 100 percent. Unless Christ returns soon, we’re all going to die. We don’t like to think about death; yet, worldwide, 3 people die every second, 180 every minute, and nearly 11,000 every hour. If the Bible is right about what happens to us after death, it means that more than 250,000 people every day go either to Heaven or Hell.”

The Bible *is right* about what happens after death. Heaven will not be the eternal home for every person. So we need to explore this question: Is heaven in your future?

### **TROUBLE WILL BE IN YOUR FUTURE (vs. 1)**

Jesus said: “Let not your hearts be troubled (agitated, stirred up). They had good reason to be troubled. They were embarrassed and ashamed that Jesus had exposed their pride and called them out for it. They were shocked because one of the twelve disciples would betray Him. They were surprised because Jesus predicted Peter would deny Him. They were sad because Jesus told them He was going to suffer and be crucified. And they were disappointed because Jesus was not setting up His kingdom as they thought. For all these reasons their hearts were very, very troubled.

We may face the same trouble of losing a close friend or member of our family. We may face many kinds of trouble: family trouble, financial trouble, health trouble. We may face trouble because of our Christian faith. One new believer said: “I thought when I became a Christian it would be end of my troubles. It was...the front end.” ***Job 14:1*** *Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*

### **HOPE AND ASSURANCE CAN BE IN YOUR FUTURE (vs. 1)**

Here is the cure for troubled hearts – trust in God and trust in Jesus. The disciples believed in God although they could not see Him. They must continue to believe in Him although they will no longer see Him physically. ***John 20:29*** *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.* ***1 Peter 1:8*** *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*

Our choir sang a good song recently that reminded us everything that threatens to be over our heads is under His feet. ***1 Peter 5:7*** *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

It doesn’t matter what kind of problem you face, He is the great problem-solver. It doesn’t matter what kind of burden you bear, He is the great burden-bearer. It doesn’t matter how hopeless your circumstances may be or how helpless you feel, He is able and He is faithful. Our faith and hope rest on two great truths: The Lord is able and He is willing. “Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus and to take Him at His word, just to rest upon His promise, just to know thus saith the Lord.”

### **HEAVEN CAN BE IN YOUR FUTURE (vs. 2-6)**

- The place called heaven

He said it was a real place. The Bible describes heaven as a country due to its size, as a city due to the large number of its residents, as a kingdom because Christ is King, as paradise because of its beauty, and as a place of perfect rest. But here Jesus called it the Father's house and He said it was a special, prepared place.

**Hebrews 11:16** *But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

Jesus said there are many mansions. We think of the word mansion as an extremely large, expensive house. The word actually includes two things: intimacy and permanence. It is a permanent dwelling place inside the Father's house as a part of God's family.

- The promise of heaven

He promised that He would come for us and we would be where He is. This is the first mention of the Rapture of the church. Whether He comes for us or calls us home, the best thing about heaven is being with Christ.

**Philippians 1:23** *For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.*

- The path to heaven

He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the way, which suggests there are so many misleading ways. **Matthew 7:13-14**<sup>13</sup> *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*<sup>14</sup> *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.* He is the truth, which suggests there are many false ideas about how to get to heaven. He is the life, which suggests there are many ways that lead to death and destruction.

**Proverbs 14:12** *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

He is not a way to heaven or even the best way to heaven. He is the only way to heaven. This has always been the Gospel message.

**Acts 4:12** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

**1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

## **APPLYING THE MESSAGE TO YOUR LIFE**

- 1) Make sure that heaven is your eternal home

Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. Repent of your sins. Trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Become a disciple of Jesus and obey Him. To be heaven bound you must be heaven born. **John 3:3** *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

2) Focus your mind and heart on heaven

**Colossians 3:2** *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.* In Randy Alcorn's book, *Heaven*, he has a quote from an ancient Greek writer named Aristides, who wrote to a friend about Christianity, explaining this so-called new religion: "If any righteous man among the Christians passes from this world, the rejoice and offer thanks to God, and they escort his body with songs and thanksgiving as if he were setting out from one place to another nearby." Billy Graham wrote a book titled, *Nearing Home*. If you are a Christian, every day you are one day nearer to going home.

3) Lay up treasures in heaven

**Matthew 6:19-20** <sup>19</sup> *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup> But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.*

**Hebrews 10:34** *For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.* You will never see a hearse pulling a u-haul trailer. You can't take it with you when you die, but you can send it on ahead.

4) Show others the way to heaven

By example and our sharing the Gospel we can show others the way. I read this statement recently during my morning devotions: "Lord, may our home be a nursery for heaven as we instruct our children and show the way by our example."