

Heaven:  
What Does The Bible Say About It?  
Hebrews 11:8-16  
Pastor Larry Johnson  
2-27-11

Every time you see your breath on one of these cold wintry Wyoming days you are seeing a visible demonstration of James 4:14 which says...  
"[Our life is] just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."

Like one breath on a cold winter's day, we are here for a little while, we make ourselves known, and then, in comparison with eternity almost instantly we disappear with virtually no trace left of our existence to the vast majority of mankind.

Hebrews 11:10 said, "[Abraham] was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

Listen to a few heroes of the faith: C.H. Spurgeon, "The very happiest persons I have ever met with, have been departing believers. The only people for whom I have felt any envy, have been dying members of this very church, whose hands I have grasped in their passing away. Almost without exception I have seen in them holy delight and triumph. And in the exceptions to this exceeding joy I have seen deep peace, exhibited in a calm and deliberate readiness to enter into the presence of their God."

Martin Luther, "I would not give one moment of heaven for all the joy and riches of the world, even if it lasted for thousands and thousands of years."

Joh MacArthur, "Christians whose faith does not extend to heaven will have their eyes on the things of this world and will wonder why they are not happier in the Lord. Nothing in this life, including God's most abundant earthly blessings, will give a believer the satisfaction and joy that come with absolute assurance of future glory"  
(Hebrews Commentary, p. 334)

Let's spend some time tonight learning why heaven is the abode of infinite joy. And why a proper understanding of what is in heaven will increase our joy here and now. We have three points tonight, and if the Lord permits, we will study three additional points next Sunday night.

I. OUR GOD IS THERE

II. OUR HOME IS THERE

III. OUR REWARDS ARE THERE

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The great theologian Charles Hodge said, "The Scriptures teach that the happiness or blessedness of believers in a future life will be greater or less in proportion to the service of Christ in this life. Those who love little, do little; and those who do little, enjoy less." Someone else once remarked, "What we weave in life will be worn in eternity."

Do you see why Christians can face death with peace? They are not so much "leaving behind" as much as "going to."

So the future prospect has a direct influence on our present joy. So I ask you, Is there any greater joy than being in heaven - to see your God and be at your home and receive your eternal rewards?

If Jesus promised you His joy (Jn. 15:11), then living for anything less is the epitome of foolishness! Do you have the faith of Abraham that lives this life (which is but a vapor - Jas. 4:14) in light of a better one to come (Heb. 11:16)?

I began this message by reminding you whether you are young or old here tonight that your life even at its longest is nothing more than a breath of frosty air in the winter time that disappears right before your eyes almost before you can take another breath.

If that is true and it is, I ask you a very serious question; are you living with eternity's values in view? Are you really serious about heaven and going there and being with Jesus forever? If you are think often of what God has said about heaven and purpose in your heart, that God being your helper you wouldn't miss it FOR ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD.