What Makes Heaven So Great?

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

In relation to our theme this year of "Heaven Bound," there is one thing that we have not talked about yet; it is heaven itself. We haven't answered questions like: What will heaven be like? Why should we want to go to heaven? Who is going to be in heaven?

These are the kinds of questions we want to find answers to over the next few weeks. Beginning this morning, Matt and I will begin a sermon series focusing on "Heaven" in the "Heaven Bound."

Our first task will be to talk about "What makes heaven so great?" The Bible gives us at least four answers to this question.

I. Because of who is there

- A. God is there (Psalm 11:4; 115:3; Matthew 6:9; Acts 7:56; John 14:1-3, 26).
 - 1. Heaven is not some fairytale or myth. It is a real place!
 - 2. Heaven is a place where God the Father sits on His throne, with His Son at His right hand.
- B. God's presence is the greatest thing about heaven! See Philippians 1:21-24.

II. Because of what is not there

- A. Heaven is great because there is...
 - 1. No sin (2 Peter 3:14).
 - 2. No **suffering** (Revelation 21:4).
 - 3. No **death** (Revelation 21:4).
 - 4. No **fears** (Revelation 21:4; Matthew 6:19-21).
- B. None of the problems that we face in this life will be found in heaven!

III. Because of its blessings

- A. In heaven we will receive...
 - 1. The blessing of **rest** (Revelation 14:13; Hebrews 4:9-11).
 - 2. The blessing of **glory** (Romans 8:16-17).
 - 3. The blessing of **reward** (Matthew 5:12; 25:34; 1 Peter 1:3-5).
- B. The blessings we receive on this earth fail in comparison to the blessings we will receive in heaven!

IV. Because of its duration

- A. This has to be one of the greatest things about heaven.
 - 1. We will receive eternal life (Matthew 25:46).
 - 2. We will always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18).
 - 3. We will forever dwell with God (Revelation 21:3).
- B. We will get to experience the blessings of heaven **forever!**

Conclusion: Heaven is going to be great...and you can be there (Matthew 7:21-23).

Shawn Jeffries