HOW CAN WE TAKE OUR FAMILIES TO HEAVEN?

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is one of the most important questions anyone can consider.

2. We plan trips for our families many times and we make great preparations for the trip; we want it to be enjoyable and safe.

3. This trip to heaven is the most important trip one can ever plan.

4. We all must face the FACT that we cannot stay here --Heb. 9:27; Job 16:22; Heb. 13:14

5. This trip to HEAVEN is the FAMILY TRIP OF A LIFETIME -- It is a trip through life, to heaven, for eternity -- II Tim. 4:7 - 8; Matt. 25: 46; John 14:1 - 6

I. THE TRIP TO HEAVEN IS A TRIP "HOME"

1. Heaven is the eternal home of the righteous
   
   (1) Abraham desired and looked forward to this HOME -- Heb. 11:10; 11:16
   
   (2) Paul desired this HOME -- Phil. 1:23
   
   (3) Jesus said He would come the second time to carry the righteous there -- John 14: 1 - 6

2. Heaven is where God, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and angels RESIDE -- Deut. 26: 15; Luke 24: 51; I Pet. 3:22

3. God sends man every good gift from HEAVEN -- James 1:17


5. Jesus acts as our HIGH PRIEST there -- Heb. 4: 14 - 16; I John 2:1

6. All who have been called by the gospel have their CITIZENSHIP in HEAVEN -- II Thess. 2:14; Heb. 3:1; Phil. 3:20

7. Christians live in HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE with God in HEAVEN -- Tit. 1:2; I John 2:25

8. HEAVEN will be the reward of every faithful child of God -- Rom. 2: 6 - 7; Matt. 25:34; II Pet. 1: 10 - 11; II Tim. 4: 7 - 8

II. THE BLESSEDNESS OF OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

1. It is a HOME full of JOY AND PLEASURE -- Psa. 16:11

2. It is a HOME where LOVE RULES -- I Cor. 13:13; I John 4:8

3. It is a HOME where there is NO SIN -- Rev. 21:27

4. It is a HOME where there is NO CONFUSION -- I Cor. 14:33

5. IN THIS HOME THERE ARE :

   (1) No tears -- Rev.21:4
   
   (2) No Death -- Rev. 21:4
   
   (3) No Sorrow -- Rev. 21: 4
   
   (4) No Crying -- Rev. 21:4
   
   (5) No Pain -- Rev. 21:4

6. In God’s house we will be in the LIKENESS OF CHRIST -- I John 3:2
7. We will have ETERNAL SALVATION -- I Pet. 1:9; Heb. 9:15

III. FIVE THINGS THAT WILL ASSURE THAT OUR FAMILY WILL MAKE IT TO HEAVEN:

1. We must teach them to LOVE THE TRUTH AND OBEY GOD as the TOP PRIORITY of life -- Eph. 6:4
   (1) We must teach them to love the truth ABOVE ALL ELSE -- John 8:32; Prov. 23:23; Psa. 119: 97, 140; II Thess. 2:10
   (2) We must teach them to be OBEDIENT TO THE TRUTH -- Matt. 7:21; Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Matt. 6:33; II Thess. 1: 7 - 9; I Sam. 15:22

2. We must PREPARE THEM FOR THE JOURNEY TO HEAVEN:
   (1) Prepare them to travel the NARROW ROAD that FEW travel -- Matt. 7: 13 - 14; Matt. 22:4
   1. Teach them that sometimes the trip will be LONELY
   2. Our friends and family who are closest to us many times will RIDICULE THE ROAD WE TRAVEL -- Matt. 13:21
   3. We must teach them to be strong and of good courage; NOT TO BE DISMAYED -- that the Lord is with them -- Joshua 1:9; Heb. 13: 5 - 6
   4. We must prepare EACH FAMILY MEMBER to OVERCOME THE WORLD’S DISTRACTIONS -- I John 2:15 - 17; I Pet. 2:11; I Tim. 6: 9 - 10
   5. We must tell them that once we get there GOD WILL RICHLY WELCOME US IN -- II Pet. 1:11; Matt. 25:34; Rev. 22:14

3. We must TEACH them about the CONSEQUENCES OF SIN
   (1) HELL is real and those who DIE IN SIN WILL GO THERE -- Matt. 25: 41; John 8:21; II Thess. 1: 8 - 9
   (2) A life of sin is a life of SHAME AND DISGRACE -- Prov. 6: 32 - 33
   (3) The RESULT of a life of sin is the VENGEANCE OF THE CREATOR-- II Thess. 1: 7 - 10
   (4) The pay-off for the momentary pleasure of sin is DEATH -- Rom. 6:23
   (5) Because of sin, hearts are HURT, Souls are LOST, Marriages DISRUPTED, families DESTROYED, and governments are WEAKENED -- Prov. 14:34

4. We must ENCOURAGE them to be COURAGEOUS in the face of ADVERSITY
   (1) We all SUFFER in this life -- Job 14:1
   (2) From our suffering we grow stronger -- WE LEARN:
      1. Obedience -- Heb. 5: 7 - 8
      2. Steadfastness -- James 1: 2 - 4
      3. Dependence upon God -- Psa. 119:67
      4. Prayer -- Psa.86:7
      5. Suffering reminds us of our frailty -- Psa. 39: 4
      6. Suffering tries our faith -- Jame 1:2
      7. That God will be with us in trouble -- Heb. 13:5
      8. To be sympathetic
(3) When our family sees INDIFFERENCE and HYPOCRISY in the church among those who profess to be Christians, encourage them to BELIEVE firmly in Jesus Christ -- John 14:6

1. Teach them that no matter what others may do, they can serve the Lord with honesty and faith.

5. TEACH THEM ABOUT THOSE THEY WILL MEET IN HEAVEN

(1) When we travel to a distant place to visit family, we tell the children about the family we are going to meet -- this increases our excitement.

(2) In heaven we are going to meet the HEAVENLY FATHER:
   1. Who planned and purposed our trip to Him -- Eph. 3: 9 - 11
   2. He gave His Son that we might be able to come -- John 3:16
   3. He watched and cared for us on earth -- James 1:17; Matt. 6:33

(3) In heaven we are going to meet JESUS CHRIST our Savior:
   1. Who came to this earth and died that we might live -- I Pet. 2:24

(4) We will meet the HOLY SPIRIT who has given REVELATION to guide us to heaven -- John 16:13

(5) We will meet the ANGELS -- I Pet. 1:12

(6) We will meet the men and women of the Old Testament who were faithful to God
   1. NOAH, ABRAHAM, MOSES, DAVID, SAMUEL, THE PROPHETS, RUTH, NAO MI, HANNAH...

(7) We will meet the men and women of the New Testament:
   1. PAUL, PETER, STEPHEN, JOHN, TIMOTHY, LOIS, EUNICE, DORCAS...

(8) We will meet brethren and loved ones who have died in the Lord -- Rev. 14:3

CONCLUSION:

1. Of all the people we want to go to heaven, it should be OUR FAMILY
2. We should work to carry EVERYBODY we can with us to HEAVEN
3. Are you here and out of Christ???

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