WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

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INTRODUCTION

1. There are many reasons why I want to go to heaven when I die.

2. In this sermon I want to set forth a few of those reasons, hoping that they may induce others to want to go to heaven.

3. Peter said Christians should give an answer to every man that asketh a reason of the hope that is in us -- I Pet. 3:15


I. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT TO GO TO HELL

1. I cannot believe any rational person wants to go to hell.

2. Just as heaven will be much better than we can know as human beings, hell will be much worse than we can conceive.

3. The punishment will be awful:
   
   (1) Everlasting fire -- Matt. 25:41
   (2) Unquenchable fire -- Mark 9: 46,48
   (3) Lake of fire -- Rev. 20: 10; 20: 14 - 15; 21:8
   (4) Furnace of fire -- Matt. 13:42
   (5) Wailing and gnashing of teeth -- Matt. 13:42
   (6) Place of torment -- Rev. 14:11; 20: 10
   (7) Outer darkness -- Matt. 25:30
   (8) Second death -- Rev. 20: 14

II. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE GOD, CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE INVITED ME

1. I like to go places I have been invited to and I know I will be welcome when I get there.

2. God said in Isa. 1:18 -- "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

3. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" --Matt. 11: 28 - 29

4. The Holy Spirit invites in Rev. 22:17 --"And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

5. How can we spurn the invitation of God? Friend, do not do it!

III. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN TO ENJOY COMFORT AND REST

1. Heb. 4:1; 4:9; Matt. 11:29

2. We need comfort here and our friends try to comfort us, but our comfort will be complete in heaven.
3. We get tired and weary here, and find no complete rest -- II Cor. 5: 1 - 10
4. We are in the midst of the fight now -- Eph. 6: 10 - 17; II Cor. 10: 4 - 5
5. Rest will come after the battles are won -- II Tim. 4: 6 - 8

IV. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE I AM A "SOJOURNER", "STRANGER", AND "PILGRIM" HERE.
   1. I Pet. 1:17; 2:11; Job 16:22
   2. My citizenship is in heaven -- Phil. 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" NKJV
   3. Abraham -- Heb. 11: 9 - 10; 11: 13 - 16

V. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE
   1. The beauty of heaven is beyond compare.
   2. "A city of pure gold, like unto clear glass" -- Rev. 21:18
      (1) The street of the city is pure gold -- Rev. 21:21
   3. A place of righteousness -- no wicked to trouble -- Rev. 21:27
   4. The tree of life and the river of life is there -- Rev. 22: 1 - 2; 22:14; Rev. 7:16
   5. No night there -- Rev. 21:25 (Night’s shadows never fall there.)
   6. No death there -- Rev. 21:4
   7. No pain there -- Rev. 21:4
   8. No weeping there -- Rev. 21:4
   9. No more curse -- Rev. 22: 3

VI. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE OF ITS COMPANIONSHIPS
   1. We will dwell with God and Christ -- Rev. 21:3; 21: 22 - 23
   2. Think of being with Abel, Abraham, Moses, Peter, Paul and John.
   3. And, we shall meet our faithful brethren that we love so dearly here.

VII. HOW TO REACH HEAVEN --

(Underwood Hts. 1972; Grandview 1973; Hebron Lane 1987; BC12 TV 1987; River Bend 1999)