

Love for Heaven

Text: Philippians 3:20-21

Main Idea: Love for the Lord produces love for heaven.

Introduction

1. Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20-21).
2. How much do we love this heavenly citizenship? Heaven is a gift from God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23). What makes the gift of heaven so special?

Instruction

I. God is There (Rev. 21:3-4).

- A. When we focus on what is in heaven, there are many things which come to mind:
 - 1) We are reminded of a city that is built of jasper, pure gold, and polished glass (Rev. 21:18).
 - 2) We picture a city with twelve pearly gates and a street of gold (Rev. 21:21).
 - 3) We envision a festal gathering in the city of God with the hosts of angels (Heb. 12:22).
 - 4) We long for a place where we do not have to deal with the maladies of life (Rev. 21:4).
- B. What makes heaven special? God is there (Rev. 21:3).
- C. Throughout Revelation, John describes the multitudes worshiping God (cf. Rev. 4:8, 11; 5:10-11; 7:9-12; 19:1-8). Why will we worship in heaven? God is there.

II. The Anchor of the Soul is There (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

- A. In the New Testament, hope refers to a confident expectation that produces joy and assurance.
- B. In 1 Pet. 3:3-5, Peter describes our heavenly inheritance.
 - 1) Our inheritance was secured through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (v. 3).
 - 2) Our inheritance is eternal and indestructible (v. 4).
 - 3) Our inheritance is being guarded by the power of God (v. 5).
- C. Where there faith in the future, there is hope in the present.

III. Love for Heaven Motivates Us to Live Godly Lives (Rev. 2 & 3).

- A. When Jesus addressed the seven churches of Asia, he uses their love for heaven as motivation to heed his instruction and/or encouragement.
 - 1) Ephesus: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." (Revelation 2:7, ESV)