

Life After Life: Heaven is a Real Place

(John 14:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:35-36; Revelation 21:1-4)

Introduction.

In his book titled, "**Heaven**," Randy Alcorn recorded this confession. "A pastor once confessed to me: "Whenever I think about heaven, it makes me depressed. I'd rather just cease to exist when I die." "Why?" I asked. "I can't stand the thought of that endless tedium. To float around in the clouds with nothing to do but strum a harp ... it's all so terribly boring. Heaven doesn't sound much better than hell."

An average Joe admitted, "I don't enjoy church and I can't stand the thought of just singing hymns or playing harps for an eternity in heaven, either. I don't mean to be rude. But, I'd rather just rest in peace - unconscious."

Another person wrote, "Heaven sounds boring. All the fun people will be in Hell partying, so why do I want to go heaven?" What's your attitude toward heaven? Does it fill you with excitement? How often do you, your church, and your family talk about it?

I have observed that past generation talked about, thought about, and longed for heaven much more than people of today. Why? We have become so consumed by our current life that we do not focus on the future life. People get interested in the afterlife when things get bad or when we lose someone close to us. Also, there exists a strong disconnect between what the Bible identifies as our purpose for living and what society practices.

The Bible is plain, "You were created for a person (Jesus) and a place (heaven). This world (this life) and all its attractions are not why we are here. The purpose of this life is to prepare for the afterlife.

Contextualize this sermon in the Life After Life Series

Contextualize the Sermons Texts – During and following Jesus' time on earth, they were concerned about what lies beyond this life. Is there more than being birth, life, and death? What is the afterlife like? Basically, the same questions people ask today.

I. The Place Called Heaven (John 14:1-4)

- A) A Material Place (John 14:1-2)
- B) A Prepared Place (John 14:2)
- C) A Majestic Place (John 14:3)
- D) A Good Place (Rev. 21:1-5)
- E) A Glorious Place (Rev. 21:9-14)
- F) A Glad Place (Rev. 22:1-5)

II. The People of Heaven (I Corinthians 15:35-44)

- A) Image (v. 37-38)
- B) Identifiable (v. 39)
- C) Individuals (v. 40-41)
- D) Sustained (v. 42)
- E) Splendor (v. 43)
- F) Strength (v. 43)
- G) Spiritual (v. 44-49)

III. The Primary Person of Heaven

(John 14:1-4)(Revelation 21:3)

Conclusion

Earlier in this message you heard that the Bible is plain, “You were created for a person (Jesus) and a place (heaven).

My question to you is, “Are you fulfilling your purpose?”