

Dear Heaven-Bound in Christ:

Heaven Survey Do most people believe they will go to heaven?

What do the surveys say?

- 85% believe in heaven
- 60% believe in hell
- 74% believe in life after death

Do you think you will go to heaven?

- Yes 55%
- Hope so 35%
- No 4%
- Heaven doesn't exist 6%

Have you ever wondered...

- Where heaven is?
- What kind of place heaven is?
- Who will be in heaven?
- If we will know each other in heaven?
- What we will do in heaven?

One of my favorite movies is Field of Dreams. It was a movie about...

- A farmer in Iowa who plowed under part of his cornfield to make a baseball field
- When the corn grew high, former baseball players would walk out of the corn and play on the field
- The players were from the 20's and 30's so they came back to life from the corn field
- In one scene, one of the players asked the farmer "Is this heaven?"
- The farmer replies "No, it's Iowa."

I. What kind of place is heaven? vv1-2

A. It is a place – a real, objective place

1. Jesus said: **"In my Father's house are many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you."**

2. Heaven is not a mere condition or state of being as some would say that heaven is “here on earth.” Revelations 21:2 describes heaven as a place: “The Holy City...the new Jerusalem.”
3. Revelation 21:1 says that there is no longer any “sea” in heaven. In the John’s day the sea meant a place of danger, storms and separation. Heaven is a place were there is no more danger or separation.

B. Where is this heaven?

Billy Graham once said: “I am not worried about where it is. I know it is going to be where Jesus is.”

- Ps 103:11 Heaven is high above the earth
- Deut 26:15 Look down from Your holy habitation – from heaven – and bless your people
- Deut 3:12 Who shall go up for us to heaven
- Ps 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, you are there
- Acts 1:9 Jesus was taken up to heaven – the disciples were looking up into the sky

C. Heaven is the place of God v3 “home of God”

- **Heaven is a place of beauty and glory**
- Jesus went back there to prepare a place for us
- He says: “I will come back and take you to be with me...” John 14
- Revelation 21:11ff describes heaven as
 - A place of glory which shines in brilliance like a precious jewel, clear as crystal
 - A place with a high wall with 12 gates and 12 angels at the gates
 - A place where the names of the 12 apostles were written on the wall of the city
 - A place where the streets are of pure gold – like transparent glass
 - A place where there is no temple because God is the temple
 - A place where the Lamb of God is the light and lamp
- Revelation 21:2 describes heaven, the New Jerusalem, as a beautiful bride on her wedding day
- Heaven through the Bible is describe as a place of...
 - Beauty and rest Hebrews 4:9
 - Indescribable bliss I Corinthians 2:9
 - No suffering Revelation 7:16

II. Who is in heaven? V3

A. God

- Ps 33:13-14 From the Lord’s dwelling place he watches all who live on earth

- Isaiah 66:1 God says: Heaven is My home
- Acts 7:55 Stephen...looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

The presence of Jesus makes heaven a place of joy.

- He is waiting for us
- He longs for us
- He will welcome us

A mother was very ill and near death. So that she would receive some rest her young child was taken away to a friend's home for a few days. When the mother died the father said: "We will not tell the child about her mother's death; she is too young to remember her mother. Let her stay where she is until after the funeral." After the funeral the little girl was brought back to the house. No mention was made of her mother. The girl went into the house running from one room to another: "Where is mother...I want mother." Finally, the father told her that her mother had died. The girl cried out: "Take me away... I don't want to be here without mother." Her mother made the house home for the girl.

It is Jesus who makes heaven our home.

- There we will walk with him
- There we will talk with him
- There we will thank him forever
 - B. Holy Angels are in heaven
- Daniel saw thousands and thousands of angels in heaven
- Rev 5:11 "Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands and 10,000 times 10,000...They say "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain..."
- Heaven is a place of ceaseless activity with saints and angels serving and worshiping God
 - C. Saints of the past (our loved ones) in Christ
- We will meet Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Job, David...
- Matthew 8 says "...Many will come from the east and the west and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob..."
- Rev 14:13 "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."

When do we go to heaven? The Bible says...

- "The dust returns to the ground it came from and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

- Ecc 12
- “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23
- “We would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” II Corinthians 5:8

Think of your loved ones in Christ who have gone home to heaven.

Thank the Lord for His grace and mercy because by nature we were

- Enemies of God
- Hostile to Him
- Sinful and going in an opposite direction

III. Will we know each other in heaven?

A. We will have our own bodies.

- Job 19:26 “In my flesh I will see God with my own eyes I, and not another.”
- Romans 8:11 He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies
- Matthew 17 Peter recognized Moses and Elijah on the mountain of Transfiguration
- Phil 3:21 God will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
- Rev 7:16 Never again will they hunger, never again will they thirst
- Rev 21:4 There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...
- I John 3:2 What we will be has not yet been made known. But we know...we shall be like him.

Like Christ’s body our body will no longer be subject to earthly or physical limitations that we endure now.

I Corinthians 15:35 and II Corinthians 5:1 says we will be recognized in our resurrected bodies. We will be...

- Perfect without sickness
- Strong and beautiful
- Brand new with everlasting bodies II Corinthians 1:22

B. Will we recognize each other?

- We will have perfect knowledge because Christ’s image will be restored in us I Corinthians 13
- Adam had perfect knowledge before he sinned...
 - He named all of the animals in the world
 - He knew Eve at first glance when God brought her to him
- With God’s image restored in us we will...

- Recognize the Apostle Paul and King David
- Remember those we knew on earth
- No introductions will be needed

IV. **What are the joys of heaven?** What will we be doing? vv4-7

A. We will see God - "We shall see God as he is!" I John 3

- Ps 16:11 "You will fill me with joy in your presence"
- There will be no more evil, sin or death
- Luke 20 "We can no longer die...we will be like the angels."
- Isa 53:10 Gladness and joy will overtake us
- Luke 16:21 You will laugh
- Psalm 126 We will reap songs of joy

Heaven will be filled with laughter and songs. What about now on earth as we wait?

"If you are a Christian, please notify your face!" In heaven there will be...

- No sour faces
- No downcast spirits
- No gloom or sadness
- "A perpetual smile of joy will light up the countenances of the redeemed."
- Music and worship will swell every heart – our time now on earth in worship and praise is just a tune up for heaven v4

B. We will be at home vv5-6

- I Thessalonians 4 So we will be with the Lord forever
- Unbeliever says: "I am leaving home, I am dying."
- Believer says: "I am going home, I am dying to awake up in heaven."

The Bible reminds us that...

- Heaven is a place John 14
- There we shall be like Jesus I John 3
- There will have new bodies I Corinthians 15
- There we will have a wonderful experience
- Heaven will be as Revelation 21 says..
 - A new environment
 - A new experience
 - New emotions
 - No more death

I John 5:11f "...this life is in God's Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

John 5:13 "You who believe in the name of the Son of God...you...know that you have eternal life."

John says in Revelation 21:6 that our thirst will be quenched with the water of life. In John's day water wasn't always around especially in the arid desert climate of Israel. Many times the people of Israel knew the meaning of thirst. The tortured saints of John's day knew the meaning of thirst. Eternal life in heaven is pictured as having free and abundant living water for all that will forever take away our thirst. We will be satisfied....forever!

In verse 7 John writes: "He who overcomes will inherit all this..."

After the Chicago fire of 1871 evangelist Dwight L. Moody went back to survey the ruins of his house. A friend came by and said to Moody, "I hear you lost everything." "Well," said Moody, "you understood wrong. I have a good deal more left than I lost." "What do you mean?" asked his friend. "I did not know you were that rich."

Moody then opened his Bible and read to him Revelation 21:7: "He who overcomes will inherit all this and I will be his God."

In Christ we are Overcomers!

- We will see heaven
- We will live in heaven