



"Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely on God; believe in and adhere to and trust in and rely also on Me. In My Father's House there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you. And when (if) I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And [to the place] where I am going, you know the way." - John 14:1-4 (AMPC)

"[Born anew] into an inheritance which is beyond the reach of change and decay [imperishable], unsullied and unfading, reserved in Heaven for you, who are being guarded (garrisoned) by God's power through [your] faith [till you fully inherit that final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time." - 1 Peter 1:4-5 (AMPC)

Your body is not the real you. It is the "house" in which your soul and spirit dwell. The real you will not be in a cemetery.

In an Indiana cemetery is a tombstone which is more than 100 years old with this epitaph: *"Pause stranger when you pass me by; as you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be; prepare yourself to follow me."*

A young man came by and wrote these lines beneath the poem: *"To follow you I am not content; until I know which way you went."*

God has placed within our hearts a desire for Heaven. That desire must be fed with spiritual truths enabling it to grow more intense. The more intense our desire for Heaven, the greater our value in His Kingdom on Earth.

Heaven is referred to over 500 times in the Bible. Jesus references Heaven, eternal life, or His coming Kingdom 192 times.

He taught us to pray *"Our Father Who is in Heaven."* (Matthew 6:9)

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence and your praiseworthy, noble, and good deeds and recognize and honor and praise and glorify your Father Who is in Heaven." - Matthew 5:16 (AMPC)

"Don't keep hoarding for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays, and loses its value. Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures for yourselves that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay, or lose their value. For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure." - Matthew 6:19-21 (TPT)

Best definition of Heaven – My Father's House.

Heavenly treasures are eternal realities such as loving and serving others, doing good deeds, sharing the Gospel, living by His Kingdom principles.

You cannot enter Heaven until Heaven enters you. The only things on Earth that are going to Heaven are the souls and spirits of people.

In order to build equity in Heaven, we must invest our resources – talents, gifts, abilities, time – in the Kingdom work of God.

"Be glad and supremely joyful, for your reward in Heaven is great (strong and intense)..." - Matthew 5:12 (AMPC)

Besides being in the presence of Jesus, seeing God on His Throne, worshiping with angels and His saints, you will receive a reward(s) for your service to His Kingdom on Earth.

"Reward" is a grace compensation given by God to those who faithfully serve Him on Earth. It is a gift that far exceeds our services rendered to Him.

Peter calls it an "inheritance." *"We are reborn into a perfect inheritance that can never perish, never be defiled, and never diminish. It is promised and preserved forever in the Heavenly realm for you!" - 1 Peter 1:4 (TPT)*

Heaven is kept for us, and we are kept for Heaven. Heaven is prepared for us, and we are prepared for Heaven.

Our inheritance starts with our acceptance of Jesus into our hearts. It is His spiritual life sown into us by the Holy Spirit Who uses the Word of God to produce this new life in and through us.

We are given “Christ.”

“For our spiritual wealth is in Him, like hidden treasure waiting to be discovered—Heaven’s wisdom and endless riches of revelation knowledge.” - Colossians 2:3 (TPT)

Heaven is our safe-deposit box where God is guarding our inheritance for us under constant care.

A grief counselor said there are two things most people want to know about their deceased loved ones:

“Where are they?” “What are they doing?”

They are in the Third Heaven, and they are dazzled by God’s glory. They are experiencing their inheritance.

*“One day poor Lazarus died, and the angels of God came and escorted his spirit into paradise.”
- Luke 16:22 (TPT)“*

Lazarus’ name means “God helps.”

The rich man and Lazarus show us the answer to the question – “What are they doing?”

In Hell, the rich man lifted up his eyes and saw a glimpse of Paradise where Abraham and Lazarus were standing, reveling in the glory. A great gulf appeared between them and could not be bridged. The rich man said, “I am in agony in these flames of fire.”

Abraham said, “While you were alive you lived in luxury, had everything you desired and Lazarus had nothing. Now Lazarus is in the comforts of Paradise and you are in agony.”

Heaven is important – not just when you die – right now, this moment. Every day you live, you are either preparing for Heaven or Hell. Daily, you are sending up equity, making investments in Heaven as you serve God on this Earth.

Discussion Questions:

- God has placed within our hearts a _____ for Heaven.
- Best definition of Heaven - My Father’s _____.
- The only things on Earth that are going to Heaven are the _____ and _____ of people.
- “_____” is a grace compensation given by God to those who faithfully serve Him on Earth..
- Peter calls it an _____.
- Heaven is important right _____.
- Daily you are sending up equity, making _____ in Heaven as you serve God on Earth.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help me to remember that Heaven is important right now, this moment, and that I need to daily prepare for Heaven by sending up equity and making investments as I serve you with my talents, gifts, abilities and time on this Earth.

Notes:
