

for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21) You will want to invest your money and material goods in God's kingdom instead of this world's temporal existence. You will seek eternal treasure in Heaven rather than the temporal treasure of this life.

HOLINESS AND RIGHT LIVING. "...what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,... But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless." (II Peter 3:11b,12a,13,14) You will want to live holy and blameless before God because you believe God will soon destroy the earth as we know it, and you will be with Him. You will want to be spiritually ready to meet Him.

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF DEATH. "and they loved not their life even unto death." (Revelation 12:11c) You will have confidence that death cannot have the final say over your life. As fearful as the thought of death may be, your eternal hope in Heaven will help you overcome that fear. "But when the perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:54,55)

LIVING IN GODS GREATER PLAN. "...we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8) "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) You may not understand the "why's" of this life; the human tragedies, the unwelcomed circumstances, the sufferings and pain. But, you will know that God has a greater plan, that there is a bigger picture than what we are able to see from our limited point of view here on earth. Heaven is where your complete fulfillment, ultimate happiness, and eternal living really begins. Those whose lives are tragically cut short in this life are beginning their Heaven-experience sooner. It is not a tragedy for them, but only for those who are left behind. Because of our attachment to this life on earth, it seems unfair for a loved-one to die young, to be suddenly taken from their family and ministry, or to suffer a tragic death. You

must be willing to see the bigger picture, God's greater plan.

FAITHFULNESS and FRUITFULNESS. "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" (Matthew 25:34-36,40) You will want to be faithful to God by serving others, by being His representative in sharing His good news of salvation to those who are lost and by ministering to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Fruitfulness in your life is the mark of your sincere Christian faith. When the King comes again, He will be looking for those who have been faithful to His kingdom principles and fruitful in sharing His life with others.

HEAVEN CAN'T WAIT!
You must embrace the truth of Heaven now and live your Christian life with a "Heavenly" perspective. It will be a life-changing experience.

HEAVEN

CAN'T

WAIT

Living Now For Your Eternal Future.

KNOW THE TRUTH



"...AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."

Pastor Lynn Kern

Heaven Can Wait

There is a film entitled "Heaven Can Wait" which presents a common view of all mankind; that people strive to make all their ambitions, dreams, and desires come true in this life. To attempt to make life somewhat of a "fairy tale" experience. That whatever might be a person's view of Heaven, it isn't as important as this life on earth. Obviously, for many people who have little or no idea of Heaven or how to get there, their only hope is to hang on to the only life they know, the one here on earth. It is no wonder that the people of the world who believe in some sort of Heaven, see it more as a consolation prize than something wonderful to look forward to. In most people's thinking, Heaven Can Wait.

HEAVEN CAN'T WAIT!!!

Unfortunately, to many Christians, Heaven can wait. Don't get the wrong idea, God has purposed and planned for us to experience all that He has for us in this life, to work for His kingdom here and now, and to focus our attention on our spiritual life here on earth. God has planned that we make the most of our Christian life in this present life.

However, Christians can take a "Heaven can wait" attitude in their life and put aside the importance of Heaven until they are older or they are faced with the prospect of death. They can become overly pre-occupied with only their life, here and now; neglecting the importance of Heaven and eternity. Like the world, they can become pre-occupied with making their lives better, changing their circumstances, getting answers for their future, and living for this life.

As Christians, we are attracted to those wonderful promises of God to heal our hurts, fulfill our desires, and make our lives happy, in this life. God wants us to trust in His promises and seek His restoring life for our lives, now. But, God may not do it all here in this life. He has reserved Heaven to be where our ultimate fulfillment, healing, and happiness is to take place - for eternity.

HEAVEN CAN'T WAIT! Heaven must be a "spiritual reality" for every Christian, for YOU! The more this truth becomes real in your Christian life, the greater will be your confidence, courage, hope, and spiritual maturity. Heaven is the foundation for your eternal hope and the place where you will spend eternity. It is the dwelling place of Father God, of Christ, of the angels, and the seat of God's Kingdom in the universe. The more you develop an understanding of Heaven and think about it, the more your faith will be established in this important truth. It will become a spiritual reality that will help determine how you will live your Christian

life. We must not allow Heaven to be only a comforting thought, just another Christian doctrine, or a consolation prize after this life is over. Don't put off developing this important truth in your Christian life - Heaven Can't Wait!

Cultural Deception

In the culture of our day, you have been influenced by various images of Heaven which tend to distort the truth about Heaven. The cartoon image, with Daffy Duck sitting on a cloud, playing his harp and wearing a halo is an example of a distorted view of Heaven. It seems pleasant in the cartoon, but suggests that it is only make-believe and that everyone goes to Heaven no matter who they are or what they do. Because the cartoon is only a light-hearted, made-up image, so Heaven can be thought of as make-believe.

Our culture has taught us that Heaven is a vague, mysterious place where the soul will find rest and peace in a here-after. Heaven is often nothing more than a comforting thought to help grieving people ease the pain of death at a funeral. We are given the impression that all good people go to Heaven, that a person can earn their way there, and that there can be a kind of spiritual communication with the dead. At funerals, everyone is preached into Heaven, giving us the impression that the qualifications for getting there aren't very significant.

These and other images have been implanted in our minds through the years. Though many of these images seem harmless and insignificant to our Christian life, yet, they can distort our understanding of Heaven.

Heaven Is A Real Place

Though the Bible does not give a detailed description of Heaven, it does strongly proclaim its reality. It describes Heaven as a wonderful place to be and a place to invest your future in as you live in this present life.

The Apostle Paul had an experience in which he was "caught up to the third heaven." (1I Corinthians 12:2) By this, Paul meant the Heaven where God dwells. The Apostle John had a similar experience. (Revelation 4:1,2) Whether they literally visited Heaven or saw a vision of Heaven, God let them know the place was real. John later describes the New Jerusalem, which is our "Heaven on earth" home during the thousand year reign of Christ on earth, called the millennium. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and

He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them..." (Revelation 21:1-3) Read Revelation 21 for a more detailed description of the new Jerusalem.

Jesus spoke of Heaven as a real place. He had come from Heaven (John 3:13) and returned there after His resurrection (Acts 1:11). He taught about our future as Christians in Heaven. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in Heaven is great..." (Matthew 5:12a) "But lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven..." (Matthew 6:20a) "Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:1-3)

Heaven Is A Wonderful Place

"...and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain..." "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be His God and he will be My son." "And there shall no longer be any curse, and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads, and there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 21:4,7; 22:3-5)

Heaven is a wonderful place, where God's people will live in His presence forever; rule and reign with Him forever, and shall enjoy perfect health in a glorified body; true peace and rest, meaningful service to God, and complete happiness. These descriptions of Heaven may seem "out of this world" - and they are. Heaven and all that God has planned for His people is something far more supernatural and awesome than anything Hollywood could create on the movie screen.

Live With A "Heavenly" Perspective

Having a greater understanding of Heaven and making that truth more important in your Christian life will be life-changing. Here are five ways your life will be changed when you have a "Heavenly" perspective:

PURPOSE, VALUES, and GIVING. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth or rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;