**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | A Place Called Heaven |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 14:1-3 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2286 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. John 14:1-3
   2. We are limited in our knowledge of Heaven.
      1. The Bible tells us more about what will not be in Heaven than what will be there.
      2. But the Bible also gives us all we need to know about Heaven.
         1. What we do know leaves us in breathless wonder.
   3. God has purposely kept back from us some things about Heaven.
      1. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
      2. It is a sacred secret.
         1. God has saved something very wonderful for us: the place called Heaven.
   4. Polling data shows that a majority of Americans believe in Heaven and Hell.
      1. Data also shows that only a very small percent of people believe that they are going to Hell.
         1. An old Gospel song says that everybody talking about Heaven aren’t going there.
      2. Not everyone talking about Heaven is actually going to Heaven.
   5. Today’s message will present some facts about Heaven.
2. Heaven is a real place (2 corinthians 12:2-4)
   1. Heaven is not a condition or a state of mind.
      1. Heaven is some place on God’s map.
   2. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
      1. The Apostle Paul talked about his journey to Heaven.
      2. This passage tells us that we can go to Heaven out of our bodies or in our bodies.
      3. Heaven is such a real place that it takes care of a real body.
   3. 2 Corinthians 12:3-4
      1. The Apostle Paul said that he was “caught up into Heaven.”
      2. There is one place on the face of the Earth that is always up, and it is north.
         1. North is a fixed position.
   4. The Bible teaches that Heaven is north.
      1. Isaiah 14:13-14
         1. This passage is referring to the fall of Satan from Heaven.
         2. Satan said that he was going above the stars to the place of God.
      2. Leviticus 1:11
         1. Speaks of killing the sacrifice, “*northward toward the Lord*.”
      3. Psalm 75:6-7
         1. In this passage, the inference is that promotion comes from God, and God is in the north.
   5. 2 Corinthians 12:2
      1. Paul said that he was caught up into the third Heaven.
      2. There are three Heavens:
         1. The atmospheric Heaven
            1. Jeremiah 15:3
         2. The stellar Heaven
            1. Isaiah 13:10
         3. Heaven, the abode of God
            1. This is a real place.
            2. Jesus is there in a body.

Someone once said of these three Heavens, “The first we see by day, the second we see by night, and the third we see by faith.”

* 1. Heaven is a real place.
     1. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you will one day go there in a resurrected body and will have to have something to put your resurrected foot on.

1. the saved go to heaveN immediately upon death (2 corinthians 5:6-8)
   1. You can go to Heaven in a body or out of the body.
      1. You can be absent from your body and go to Heaven, or you can go to Heaven in a resurrected body.
   2. The saints go immediately to Heaven upon death.
      1. The soul does not sleep in the grave to await the resurrection.
      2. The body awaits the resurrection; the spirit goes immediately to be with Jesus.
         1. Luke 23:43-46
         2. Acts 7:56-59
   3. There comes a time when we move out of this body and move into a position with our Lord in Heaven.
      1. Philippians 1:23
2. we will know our loved ones in heaven (1 corinthians 13:12)
   1. We will know them face to face.
   2. 1 Corinthians 13:12
      1. “In a glass darkly.”
         1. In Bible times, they did not have mirrors as we have today.
         2. They would take brass and polish it; it was a burnished brass reflector that they would look into.
            1. They could see but could not see clearly.
      2. We really do not know one another now.
         1. Instead of asking if we will know one another in Heaven, the real question is do we know one another now?
         2. 1 Samuel 16:7
            1. God doesn’t see as man sees; God looks on the heart.
   3. 2 Samuel 12:16-23
      1. We go to our loved ones in Heaven.
   4. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
      1. The Apostle Paul points out that at the second coming of the Lord Jesus, we will be gathered not only to meet the Lord but also to meet one another.
         1. “The dead in Christ shall rise first” refers to the body that’s in the grave.
      2. 1 Thessalonians 5:15
   5. When the saints of the Bible died, the Bible says that they went to be with their people.
      1. Numbers 27:12
         1. Moses was gathered to his people.
      2. Genesis 25:8
         1. Abraham knew that he was going to have a family reunion.
      3. Genesis 35:29
         1. Isaac was gathered to his people.
      4. Genesis 49:33
         1. The body is still in the grave, but Jacob is with his people.
      5. Matthew 8:11
         1. Jesus talked about a family reunion in Heaven.
         2. We will fellowship in Heaven with others; we will know them.
   6. Matthew 17:1-13
      1. We had a preview of Heaven when Jesus was transfigured on the Mount of Transfiguration.
         1. Elijah and Moses were there.
         2. The disciples had never met Elijah or Moses; they were from a different era.
            1. But the disciples recognized both Elijah and Moses.
   7. We will know one another in Heaven.
3. there will be joyful activity in heaven
   1. There are some myths about Heaven.
      1. One of those myths is that we will wear a wooly robe with a halo and sit on a fluffy cloud plucking a harp.
      2. Another myth is that Heaven will be boring, and we will have to listen to anthems all day long.
         1. There will be music in Heaven, but it won’t be boring.
   2. Heaven is rest, but it’s not laziness.
      1. Adam had work to do before sin came into the Garden, but it wasn’t labor.
         1. It wasn’t by the sweat of his brow.
            1. It was to dress the garden and to keep it.
   3. Luke 19:12-18
      1. In this passage, our Lord talks about what we will do in Heaven.
      2. Jesus is the nobleman in this parable.
      3. Our Lord has gone to Heaven, and He has given us certain abilities and has made us stewards over certain things.
      4. We are told to occupy until He comes.
         1. This does not mean to take up space.
         2. An occupation is something we do; we are to get busy.
      5. We will be rewarded according to our labor.
         1. We are to serve Him.
   4. We will help our God rule the vast universe.
      1. 2 Timothy 2:12
      2. Revelation 7:15
         1. The greatest joy we have is serving the Lord.
         2. It is a privilege to serve the Lord.
   5. We will serve God in Heaven, and it will be thrilling and blessed and joyful.
4. Heaven is a place of absolute perfection
   1. In Heaven, there will be no more tears, no more sighing, no more crying, no more dying, and no more pain.
      1. The former things are passed away.
      2. Revelation 21:4
   2. Philippians 1:21-23
   3. In Heaven, there will be no more sin, no sorrow, no suffering, no death, no disease, and no doubts.
   4. Heaven is the presence of all that is good and the absence of all that is bad.
   5. Heaven is all that the loving heart of God would desire, all that the incredible mind of God can conceive, and all that the almighty hand of God can create.
      1. God loves us so much that He gave His Son to die for us.
         1. 1 John 4:10
      2. Put together, Heaven is God’s love, God’s mind and God’s power.
         1. 1 Corinthians 2:9
   6. Philippians 1:23
      1. The phrase “far better” in the Greek language says “It is far, very much far, much more, better.”
         1. The author is adding superlatives upon superlatives when talking about going to Heaven.
   7. Even in a world that’s marred by sin, we can see God’s creative genius and see a glimpse of that glory.
      1. We see God’s creative genius when we look at a mountain range or see a sculpted rose or a rainbow or a glorious sunset or the delicate wing of a butterfly.
      2. Heaven will be the consummate work of God’s creative genius.
   8. John 14:2
      1. This is why Heaven will be a place of absolute perfection.
   9. The streets of gold, walls of jasper and gates of gold are symbols of greater glory and greater things.
      1. The eye cannot see nor the ear hear nor can the heart conceive of what Heaven is going to be like.
5. jesus is the crowning of heaven (john 14:2-3)
   1. Heaven is not primarily a place, Heaven is also a person.
      1. John 14:2-3
         1. Are you looking forward to being with Jesus?
         2. If you’re not looking forward to being with Jesus, if you’re just waiting for an eternal vacation, then you’re not going to Heaven.
      2. Heaven is where Jesus is.
   2. Jesus is what makes Heaven, Heaven.
   3. John 17:24
      1. It is alright to pray for the healing of our sick loved ones, but Jesus is also praying that we be with Him.
      2. It is not a bad thing when a loved one steps over into the presence of Jesus to behold His glory.
   4. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.
6. only the redeemed are going to heaven (john 3:3)
   1. You must be Heaven-born to be Heaven-bound.
      1. John 3:3
         1. You must be born again.
         2. You’ve had an earthly birth, and you need a heavenly birth.
   2. Revelation 7:14
      1. Those in Heaven are those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb.
         1. No church denomination ever got anyone to Heaven.
         2. No one ever went to Heaven because they were a church member.
         3. No one ever went to Heaven for being a good person.
      2. “Have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” means that they have received Christ and His atoning blood for their sin.
   3. Revelation 21:27
      1. Being a moral person does not get you into Heaven.
      2. Being a humanitarian does not get you into Heaven.
      3. Doing good deeds does not get you into Heaven.
      4. Being a religious person does not get you into Heaven.
         1. Matthew 7:23
      5. Only those who have been born again by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary will enter into Heaven.
7. CONCLUSION
   1. Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ?
   2. Today, tell the Lord Jesus, “Lord, I’m not trusting my honesty, my charity or my religion. Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for me. I trust you.”
      1. Ask Jesus to come into your life.
   3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16