“The Reality of Heaven”, Eternal Realities, Part 4 of 4 – Sunday June 9, 2013 at SBC

Colossians 3:1

Today, we will finish up, . . . our “Eternal Realities” series. Last week, we began talking about, “The Reality of Heaven,” . . but, we ran out of time. So, today, we will continue, on the subject, . . of Heaven. We were on the question, “What is, Heaven like?” And, we talked about, five things, you won’t find, in Heaven.

 \*\*\*\* Now, the list of the things, . . . you will find, . . . in Heaven.

**1.** The first thing, you’re going to find in Heaven, . . . is **Reunion**, with every other believer. All those people, that we love, who know the Lord, when we get to Heaven, we’re going to have a party. We’re going to be, . . . reunited, together. Ephesians 1:5 – *“This is God’s purpose, that when the time is right, He will gather us all together, from wherever we are, to be with Him, in Christ, forever.”*

In Heaven, there is a great reunion, of all of our loved ones, who have gone on before us, . . . if, . . . **if**, . . . they were, truly saved. (Apart from us, trusting in Christ, . . . we can be left out, . . . of this reunion.)

Who’s, going to be, . . . in Heaven?Good question. Who’s, going to be, in heaven? God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, are going to be, in Heaven. Angels, are going to be, in Heaven. The church, is going to be, in Heaven – everybody, . . . who’s put their trust, in Christ.

\*\* One of the most common questions, we hear is, . . . “What about **babies**?” What about babies, . . . who die?

They’re all going to be, in Heaven. Forty-five million babies, have been aborted, in America, since Roe-v- Wade. Every one of them, . . . are going to be, in Heaven. Every single, one of them. Why? Because, we are not responsible, . . . for what we cannot, understand.

The same is true, of a child, who grows up, to full adulthood, . . . but, does not have the mental capacity, . . . to understand, the love of Jesus Christ. They may, can understand, some. {It’s interesting, that when they first communicated to Helen Keller, who was blind and deaf, they communicated to her, the concept of God, she said, “I’ve always, known Him. I just didn’t, . . know, His name.” Isn’t that, interesting?}

Children, are more in contact, with God, . . then, we are. They’re much more, sensitive. Mark 10:15 – *“Unless, you become as children, you shall not enter, the kingdom of God.”* Kids, are humble. They’re open, . . to God.

When they have not reached, an age old enough, . . to understand, the difference between right and wrong, good and bad, God and evil, . . . and, they are not the age, when they could come to Christ, . . . and, make that decision, to come to Christ, . . . the Bible says, . . . they are *safe*. Not *saved, . . .* but, *safe.*

Some religions teach, . . . that unless, a child is baptized, before they die, . . . they’ll go to hell. That’s wrong. It’s not, . . . in the Bible. It is unscriptural, . . . and, it is just, wrong.

Children who are not old enough, to make a wise decision, . . . who have not come to, the age of accountability, . . they are not old enough, to understand, that if they die, . . . before they understand, before they have a chance, to choose Christ, . . . they certainly haven’t rejected Him, and they don’t have the knowledge, . . . to understand. They go straight into, . . . the loving arms of Jesus. Every miscarriage, every still birth, every abortion.

\* Why don’t we talk more, about the babies, who are aborted?” Because, we’re more interested, in reaching the people, who had the abortions. Because, all those babies, . . . instantly, go to Heaven, . . . but, the adults don’t. They need to understand, the grace of God, and the forgiveness of God, and what God, has offered to us.

Here’s, an example. David had a child, that died at birth. David said this, in 2 Samuel 12:23 – *“Now, that the baby is dead, I can’t bring him back to life, but someday, I will go to be with him.”* If you’ve had a miscarriage, that baby, is in Heaven. If you’ve lost a young little one, that child is in Heaven. If you have a mentally challenged child, that cannot understand the difference, that child will be, in Heaven.

 In Heaven, . . . along with, . . . all your loved ones, . . . who knew Jesus.

The first thing, we’re going to have in Heaven, . . . is a reunion, with those that we love, . . in the family of God.

**2.** The second thing, we’re going to have, . . . **Rewards**.

What, are we going, to be rewarded for? Everything! Literally, . . . everything. The Bible makes it, very clear, that, God is watching, . . . everything in your life. You will be rewarded, for your actions, . . . that, were good. You will be rewarded, for your words, . . . that, were good. You will be rewarded, for your thoughts, . . . that, were good. You will be rewarded, for your character, and your decisions, . . . that, were good.

You will be rewarded, for your prayers. You will be rewarded, for your generosity. You will be rewarded, for your service. You will be rewarded, for your sacrifices. You will be rewarded, for your persistence, in not giving up, when you felt like giving up, doing the right thing. The Bible says, you will be rewarded, . . . for loving, . . . your enemies. Every, . . . single thing.

You’ll be rewarded, for bringing, . . . **other people**, to Jesus Christ. Is anybody, going to be in Heaven, because of you? If not, . . bring somebody, . . to church. All of us, needs to have somebody in Heaven, . . because of us.

The Bible says, that you will be rewarded, for putting up with criticism, for being a Christian. That, you will be rewarded, for being persecuted, as a believer. That’s why, Jesus said, *“Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward, in Heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets, which were before you.”*

God says I’m watching it all, . . . and, I’m going to reward it all. This has nothing to do, . . with your salvation. The only way, you get into Heaven, is by faith, . . . in what Jesus Christ, has already done for you. You can’t get into Heaven, . . . by your good works. But, the Bible says, that when you’re there,

 . . . you will be rewarded, . . . according to, your good works.

The Bible says, *“If you even, give a cup of cold water, to one of the least of My followers, . . . you will surely, be rewarded.”* Think about, all the rewards, that all the volunteers, in children’s ministry, are going to get. Every time, they change a diaper, . . . every time, they give a cup of cold water, a graham cracker, . . . or, wipe a snotty nose, . . . or, whatever, . . . God says, “I’m writing, that one down.”

The Bible says this, *“Love your enemies. Do good, to them. Lend to them, and don’t be concerned, that they might not repay. Then, your reward, . . . in Heaven, will be very great.”*

Here’s, the thing. You’ve got to decide, . . where you want, . . . your rewards, in life. Do you want them, in this life, . . . or, do you want them, . . . in the next. If you get your rewards, . . in this life: the popularity, the wealth, the fame, and all that kind of stuff, and that’s what you live for, . . how long do you get to use it?

You build up, treasure, in Heaven, rewards in Heaven, how long do you get to enjoy, those rewards? Forever! It’s just a matter, of perspective. There’s more to life, . . . then, here and now. You’ve got to decide, whether you’re going to live, . . . for here and now, and pleasure and popularity, and possessions, here on earth, . . . power, . . . or, are you going to live, in light of the rewards, that you get to live with, forever and ever? There will be rewards, . . . in Heaven.

**3.** The third thing, there’s going to be in Heaven, . . . is **Responsibilities**.

You’re not, going to sit around, on a cloud, . . doing nothing, in Heaven. That’s one of the reasons, why people don’t like Heaven. They think, “I’m going to be, so bored, in Heaven. There will be, . . nothing to do!” Are you kidding? God is the One, who wired you. He shaped you. He knows what you’re interested in.

Where do you think, you got, your interests? Where do you think, you got your hobbies? Where do you think, you got your skills and talents? Where do you think, your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences, came from? They came, from God. And, do you think, . . . He’s only going to use, those things, on earth? No. He’s going to use you, . . . in eternity.

You will have things to do, . . in eternity. Here’s the difference: you’re going to enjoy it. Here’s the difference: there aren’t going to be, any heartaches with it. Here’s the difference: you’re going to be fulfilled, one hundred percent. Your role, and your responsibility, the Bible says in Heaven, will be meaningful, . . . it will be fulfilling, . . . it will be enjoyable, . . . and, you’re going to enjoy doing it, . . . in eternity.

What is, my responsibility? What are my roles, going to be, in Heaven? I don’t know. But, I do, . . . know this. It’s based on, . . . how faithful you are, with roles and responsibilities, . . . He gives you, . . . on earth. God is watching you, . . . and, He’s testing you. Life is, . . . a test. And, life is a, temporary assignment.

God put you, on this earth, . . . to see how responsible, how dependable, how faithful, how trustworthy, you are. **What are you doing**, . . . with what you’ve, been given? If you make the most, . . . of what you’ve been given, . . . God says, I’m going to give you more, . . . in heaven.

And, if you don’t, make the most, of what you’ve been given, . . . God’s going to say, you’re going to get less. You make it into Heaven, by the skin of your teeth, . . . but, you’re not, going to have the rewards, . . . as those, who faithfully, . . . serve God.

I didn’t say, that – Jesus said it. Luke 16 – *“Jesus said, ‘Unless you’re faithful, in small matters, you won’t be faithful, in large ones. If you cheat in little things, you won’t be honest, with greater responsibilities,* [in Heaven] *and if you are untrustworthy, with worldly wealth, who will trust you, with the true riches, of Heaven?’*

\*\* Did you know, that the way you manage your money, . . . here on this earth, is a test, . . of your faithfulness, and responsibility, and it’s going to help determine, . . . what you do, in Heaven? Did you know, . . . that God is watching, . . . to see how you, not only manage your time, . . . how you manage your relationships, . . . . how you manage your health, . . how you manage your opportunities, . . . but, how you manage, your money.

All of a sudden, now, money management, becomes more, than “That would be a nice thing to do, so I could get out of debt.” No. God’s saying I’m watching to see, . . . what can I trust you with, when you get to eternity. **If I can’t**, trust you, with worldly wealth, . . you’re always in debt, . . you can’t afford to tithe, . . . you’re not generous, . . . God says, What do you think, I’m going to trust you with, . . . in eternity?

\*\*\* Let’s say, the United States, . . . makes a decision, . . . that beginning, in January, . . . that, we’re no longer, going to accept, dollar bills, . . . in America. We’re switching, to Japanese yen. After, a certain date, . . . you can only buy things, and sell things, . . . in Japanese yen. Dollars, . . . will be, . . . useless.

If you knew, that transition, was going to happen, if you were a smart investor, you would really do something,

. . . right away. You would transfer, . . . as much of your wealth, as much of your portfolio, as many of your possessions, whatever money you had in a bank account, or anything you’ve got, you would switch, . . . as much of it as you could, . . . into yen, immediately, and only keep just enough, to make it through December. Because, you know, that “At the end of the year, . . . everything we’ve got, in dollars, . . . is worthless.”

That’s exactly, what God is saying, . . about Heaven. You can either, store it up, here on **earth**, or you can store it up, in **Heaven**. And, how do you store it up, in Heaven? By investing it, in people, . . . who are, going there.

Your eternal bank account, . . . which by the way, gets a lot better returns, than the stock market. Because, God says, whatever you give up, for Me, . . . I will restore, a hundred fold. It says that, . . . in the scriptures! Jesus, said it. You know what, . . . a hundred-fold is? Ten thousand percent, interest. Name me, an investment, that gives you, . . . ten thousand percent interest.

You need, to decide, “Where am I going, to invest, my time? Where am I going, to invest, my life? Where am I going, to invest, my money? Because, I’m either, . . . going to get rewarded, . . . here on earth. Or, I’m going to get rewarded, . . . in heaven.” It’s, your choice.

There’s a reunion, rewards, there’s responsibilities. Life is a test. It’s preparation, for eternity, . . . and, God is watching, every single decision, you make, . . . to see, if you’re faithful, . . . if you’re trustworthy.

**4.** The fourth thing in heaven, . . . is **Rest**.

Sometimes, that one sounds, *really* good. Rest, . . . in Heaven. *“Blessed are those who die, in the service of the Lord. They will enjoy rest, from their hard work, because the results of their service, go with them.”* Whoa! Only, what’s done, for Christ, will last. Only, one life, twill soon be past, only what’s done, for Christ, will last.

Resting, in Jesus! That’s contentment, . . . that’s peace, . . . that’s a worry, and stress free life. No guilt, . . . no condemnation, no pressure to live up to, unreasonable expectations, . . . that’s rest. Matthew 11:28 – "Come unto me, all you who are weary, and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Heaven, . . is a place, of rest.

There will be a reunion, reward, responsibility. We’re going to rest, in Heaven. And, the fifth, . . **5. Rejoicing**.

 Heaven is a place, of eternal joy, . . . and, happiness. There are no more sorrows, . . . no more pain, . . . no more tears, . . . and, no more death. God has promised, . . . to wipe away, all of our tears, . . . forever.

What does that mean, . . . “rejoicing?” We’re going, to worship, . . . in Heaven. We’re going, to fellowship, in heaven. We’re going, to celebrate, . . . in Heaven. We’re going, to enjoy each other, in Heaven. We’re going, to love each other, in Heaven. We’re going, to party, . . . in Heaven.

The Bible says this, *“Jesus said, When you get to Heaven, I want to be able, to say this, about you, ‘Well done, my good, and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful, in handling a small amount. So, now, I’ll give you, more responsibilities. Let’s party.’”* And, God, knows how, . . . to party! Let’s celebrate, . . . together.

The Bible says, that in eternity, we are going to share, . . in the glory of Christ. We are going to be, co-reigning, with Jesus Christ. That’s what, the Bible says. What does, that mean? It’s like a big movie marquee, that says, *“Now staring, for eternity, Jesus Christ. Co-staring, . . your name.”* That’s, what it means, . . to go to Heaven.

The bottom line, is here on earth, . . . we’re put here, to practice, . . all the things, we’re going to do, in Heaven. We’re going, to love God, in Heaven. We’re going, to love each other, in Heaven. We’re going, to serve God, in Heaven. We’re going, to honor God, . . . in Heaven.

What does God, want you to do, . . . while you’re here, on earth? Practice! So, that when you get to Heaven, . . you know, . . . what you’re doing.

**6. Redeemer**. In Heaven, we shall see, our redeemer, . . . **face to face**. Jesus, is our redeemer, if we have been saved. If we just believe in Him, and are granted His forgiveness, for our sins, . . . then, we will spend eternity, . . . with our, . . . precious redeemer. (Song: “I Can Only Imagine.”)

**\*\*\*\* How do I get to Heaven?** Jesus!

This is real important, because Jesus said, . . . the door to Heaven, is narrow. It’s not, a wide door, it’s a narrow door. Romans 1:17 – *“The Good News tells us, that God makes us ready, for Heaven. He makes us right in God’s sight, when we put our faith and trust, in Christ, to save us.*  *This is accomplished, from start to finish, . . . by faith. As the scripture says, ‘the man who finds life, will find it, through trusting God.’”*

It is only, by humbly trusting God, that I have any chance, of getting to Heaven. Heaven’s perfect – I’m not.

\*\*\*\* Finally, . . . **How should I live, . . . if I’m going to Heaven?** Three things, and we’ll wrap it up.

If you know you’re going to Heaven, you need to understand, that it completely, . . changes, your value system. All of a sudden, I’m no longer living, . . . for here and now. If I know the currency, . . . is changing in January, . . . I’m going to start changing, the way I spend my money, . . . and, I’m going to start storing it up there, . . . because, I want it there, . . . for, the trillions of years, . . . not here.

So, I want to store up, those rewards, . . . by my actions, and my thoughts, and my decisions, and my words, and my kindness, . . . and, my putting up with criticism, . . . and, my responding to evil, . . . with good. Why? Because, I’m not living, . . . for now. I’m living, . . . in light of eternity.

The other thing that happens is, when you understand, that your future, is secure – shall not perish. That means, it isn’t going to happen. It’s a promise of God. I’m not, . . . going to hell. I know, without a shadow of a doubt, I’m going to Heaven. You know, what that does? It makes me, a whole lot, less stressed, than everybody else. I’m a whole lot more, at peace. I’m not so uptight, about ***getting my due****,* here on earth.

Why? Because, I’m only here, 80-90 years. So what? So, if I don’t get my due, if life isn’t fair, . . . so what if it just, doesn’t all work out, the way I want it to, I’m only here, for a little while, and I can put up with anything, if I can see a purpose, behind it. I know, if I’m responding, in the right way, I’m storing up rewards, in Heaven.

\*\*\* So, what do I do? Three things. If I’m going to Heaven, . . . this is how, . . . I should be living, my life.

**1.** Don’t be distracted, . . . by **temptation**.

Remember, you’re just passing through, . . . so you don’t let the bobbles and bangles, and the sins of this world, catch you, . . off guard. 1 Peter 2:11 – *“We’re only visitors here on earth. Since you’re real home is in Heaven, keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they’re not for you, they fight against your very souls.”*

Friends, the mark of maturity, . . . is the ability, . . to delay gratification. Have you noticed, that little kids don’t know the difference, . . . between, . . “no”, . . and “not yet”? I want it, now! They don’t know, patience. They don’t know, that “not yet”, . . . does not mean, “no.”

Anybody, who’s going to make anything of themselves, on this planet, . . . has to learn, . . delayed gratification. An Olympic athlete, delays gratification. They don’t eat, certain things. They spend hours, in the pool. They do all these, disciplined things.

Successful people, are just normal people, who are willing to discipline themselves, in ways that unsuccessful people, are not willing to, delay gratification. Instead of sitting down, and watching television, they go and they study, that book. They go, and make that sale. Or, whatever they do. That’s the ability, to delay gratification.

Yet, everything in society, tries to get you, . . . **to not**, do that. Every year, there are several politicians, . . . that, throw away, their career, . . . for momentary pleasure. That’s so stupid. You say, “I’d never, do that!” People do it, . . . all different kinds of ways. You could throw your life away, on a lot of things, that don’t count, . . . besides, just adultery. But, they were unwilling, . . . to pay the price, for integrity.

It’s not, just sins, . . that can distract you, that keep you away, from storing up treasure, and rewards, in heaven. A lot of good things, can distract you. They don’t have, to be bad. You can be tempted, by good things.

This next verse, is talking about, some of the heroes, of the faith. Hebrews 11:15-16 – *“If they had wanted to,* [talking about Moses and Abraham and all these guys] *they could have gone back, to the good things of*

 *this world-* [not the bad things. The good things. There are a lot of good things, in this world, too.] *but, they didn’t want to. They were living, for Heaven. Now, God is not ashamed, to be called their God, for He has made, a heavenly city, for them.”*

He’s saying, . . . good things, . . . can distract, your life. You can, give your life away, for a hobby. That’s not, why God put you, on earth. You can, give your life away, to climb, the ladder of success. That’s not, why God put you, on earth. You can, give your life away, for fame or pleasure, or travel, or all kinds of really good things, . . . that, there’s nothing wrong with. But, they’re never meant, . . . to be first, in your life. That’s not, . . . what you’re here, on earth for. Don’t be distracted, . . . by temptation.

**2.** Don’t be discouraged, . . . by **trouble**. When you live, . . . in light, of eternity, . . . when you live, in light, of Heaven, . . . trouble, just doesn’t, bother you, as much, . . . anymore. You just, . . . don’t give up.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – *“This is why, we never give up, . . . These troubles, and sufferings, of ours, . . are, after all, quite small, and won’t last very long, . . . ”* The guy who wrote this, the Apostle Paul, . . . he’d been beaten, . . . he’d been shipwrecked, . . . he’d been put in prison, . . . he’d gone without food, . . . without clothing. He’d been, . . . persecuted. He’d been left, . . . for dead.

And, he goes, “These small troubles, . . . ” It’s all, a matter of perspective. *“. . . These troubles, and sufferings, of ours, are, after all, quite small, and won’t last, very long. Yet, this short time of distress, will result in God’s richest blessing, upon us, . .* [when?] *forever, and ever, in Heaven. So, we don’t look, at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward, to the joys in Heaven, which we have not, yet seen. The troubles, will soon be over, . . . but, the joys, to come, will last, forever.”*

I don’t know, . . . what trouble, you’re going through, right now, . . . but, I will tell you this: **One**, it’s not, going to last. Even if, it lasted your entire lifetime, . . . it’s not, going to last. “This too, . . . shall pass.”

**Two**, . . . the second thing, about the problem, you’re going through, right now. Whether you caused it, . . . or, somebody else did, . . . is really irrelevant. God will still use it, . . . for good in your life, . . . and, He’ll help you, to grow through it, . . . if you’ll respond, . . . in the right way. It builds, . . . your character.

 It’s not, going to last, . . . it’ll build your character, if you let it, and, . . . . . . . . .

**Three**, you’re going to be rewarded for it, . . in eternity, forever. So many people, so many believers, are going to enter Heaven, . . . with no rewards. Isn’t that sad?

Did you see the movie, *Schindler’s List*? There’s a scene, at the end of that movie, where Schindler is thinking about, . . . what could have happened, if he had done more? If I had spent less money on me, and more money and more time, on saving Jews, whom were being sent, to the gas chambers. What could I have done, . . . and, why didn’t I do more, when I could have done it?

Friends, that’s the question, we’re going to ask, . . . when we get to Heaven. We’re not going to be in Heaven, two seconds,before we’ll be going, “What was, I thinking? Why did I spend, so much time, on trying to impress people? On trying, to be popular? On trying, to pile up a bunch of money, on earth? On trying, to get all I can, out of life, . . . here, today?

I had no time, to serve God, no time to give, no time to share, no time for relationships, no time for what matters most. I was doing, . . . all the right things. Why didn’t I, make more time, . . . for what mattered most?

It would be pretty tough, if God were to show us, . . . what we could have accomplished, with our life, if we had just, believed Him, . . . a little bit more.

Friends, so much of what we do, . . . is not, going to last. You need to realize, that every second of your life, . . . has eternal implications. Every, second. Every, decision. Every, thought. Every, action. Every, word. Every, attitude. Every, feeling. Every, kindness. Every, sin. Every single thing, . . . has, . . . eternal implications. God is watching, and testing. We need, to be asking, Will this last? Does it deserve, my money? Does it deserve, my time? Does it deserve, my reputation? Does it, . . . last?

Colossians 3:2 – *“Let Heaven fill your thoughts, . . . don’t spend your time, worrying about things, down here.”*

**3.** Focus my **energy**, . . on what will last. When you read the Bible, it’s a little confusing, until you understand, that there are going to be, . . . two judgments, in Heaven. There are two judgments, . . in eternity. There’s one judgment, . . . for sin. And, there’s one judgment, . . for rewards. One’s a bad judgment, and, one’s a good one.

If you have trusted Christ, with your life, you get to skip, . . the sin judgment, automatically. That’s good news. That attitude, of you’re going to sit there, in a long line, . . . and, everybody’s going to look at every bad thing, you’ve ever done wrong, . . . if you’ve trusted Christ, you get to skip that part.

The Bible says, He who has trusted in the Son, . . will pass over, that judgment. You’re not going, to be judged, for your sin, . . . when you get to Heaven. Why? They were already judged, . . . by Jesus, on the cross. He paid, for them. So, you get to skip, . . . that one. That’s good news.

But, there is another judgment, that as a believer, . . . you will, go through. That’s **the judgment, for rewards**. Where God says “Here’s what I’m going to give you, for what you did. That time you did that… That time you thought that… That time you said that… The time you were kind, and nobody looked… The time you were generous… That time you sacrificed… That time you went, on a peace trip… That time you brought, a friend to church… That time, you prayed… That time you, sat with your neighbor, and didn’t give up… I was watching, all of that! Watching, it all. And, I’d like to reward you, . . . now, for eternity.” And, you’re going, . . . why didn’t I, . . . do more? (What if, no church, no worship?)

Philippians 3:14, Paul says, *“I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize, of being called, to Heaven. This is the prize, that God offers, . . . because of what, Jesus Christ has done.”*

\*\* As we close, I’m going to pray, two ways. The first, is for those of you, who may have never, settled this issue, of Heaven. If you were to drop dead, when you walk out of here, . . . are you absolutely certain, you’re going to Heaven? If you’re not, you can make sure, right now. Why would anybody, put it off? You need to settle this issue, right now, and you need to put your trust, in God’s plan, for your salvation.

Then, I’m going to pray, that you and me, . . . will start living, . . in light of eternity, . . and, start thinking more, on banking, in Heaven, . . . instead, of banking, here on earth. Because, . . . this, is not, . . . all there is.

“The Reality of Heaven”, Eternal Realities, Part 4 of 4

Colossians 3:1

\*\* Six things you will find in Heaven:

1. Reunion

 Ephesians 1:5 – *“This is God’s purpose, that when the time is right, He will gather us all together, from wherever we are, to be with Him, in Christ, forever.”*

 One of the most common questions we hear is, . . . What about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

2. Rewards

 You’ll be rewarded for bringing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ

3. Responsibilities

 You can either store up your treasure on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or you can store it up in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Rest

 Matthew 11:28 – "Come unto me, all you who are weary, and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

5. Rejoicing

 In eternity, we are going to share in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Redeemer

In Heaven, we shall see our redeemer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**HOW DO I GET INTO HEAVEN?**

Romans 1:17 – *“The Good News tells us that God makes us ready for Heaven—makes us right in God’s sight-when we put our faith and trust in Christ to save us. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scripture says it, ‘The man who finds life will find it through trusting God.’*

 **HOW SHOULD I LIVE IF I’M GOING TO HEAVEN?**

1. DON’T BE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:11 – *“You are only visitors here on earth. Since your real home is in Heaven, keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls.”*

Hebrews 11:15-16 – *“If they had wanted to, they could have gone back to the good things of this world. But they didn’t want to. They were living for Heaven. And now God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has made a heavenly city for them.”*

 2. DON’T BE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 – *“This is why we never give up . . . These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won’t last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God’s richest blessing upon us forever and ever! So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all round us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.”*

 3. FOCUS MY ENERGY ON \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:2 – *“Let heaven fill your thoughts; don’t spend your time worrying about things down here.”*

Philippians 3:14 – *“I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to Heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done.”*