

Heaven

Hebrews 11:13-16

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Heaven! The very word causes us to _____ joy and peace and love. God gives us real _____ in His Word, the Bible. He doesn't tease us with _____ promises or give us false hope. God tells us what we most _____ to know to live the best life on earth and to receive an inheritance in heaven. The life that we have in _____ here on earth is indeed an abundant life, and nothing could be sweeter than spending an eternity in heaven with God, our Father. We're in the business of helping people find the truth to be saved, and to go to heaven.

The Bible says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be _____ again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's _____ are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5). We are born again in this life to a _____ hope. Our hope is our inheritance in heaven, an inheritance that will never perish, never be defiled, and never fade away.

Our inheritance in heaven is _____ especially for us by the power of God. God will reveal that inheritance to us at the last day when the Lord Jesus _____ to take us home with Him. Heaven is eternal, blessed, pure, and filled with joy and love. God will welcome us to that home He _____ for us in the most lavish and wonderful way. Heaven! What a hope!

Our reading today comes from the book of Hebrews 11:13-16.

What a great promise we have in Christ Jesus. Jesus is eagerly waiting for the day that He brings us _____! God longs for His children to come home and _____ with Him forever. Glorious and marvelous describe the day when God's children come home to heaven. The Lord Jesus said shortly before His death, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:1-3).

Jesus is now preparing your _____. It's greater and grander than anything that you've _____ in this life. **Read what the Bible says in Ephesians 2:4-7.**

We really can't _____ how great, how glorious, how majestic, and how wonderful our home in heaven will be! The apostles got excited about miracles; Jesus said, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless do not _____ in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven" (Luke 10:19-20). No blessing, no

event can _____ with the joy that we'll have in heaven!

Heaven is a grand place, but the _____ of heaven isn't the physical part. It's God and His people! Heaven is where the _____ go. Heaven is precious because of _____ is there! All of God's people will be in heaven, all of the righteous, everyone whose name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

I want to go to heaven just to _____ God, my Father, who created me and blessed me every day of my life. Just to be in His _____ will be a great blessing. I get to meet the One who _____ the universe and the One who _____ my every prayer. I want to see Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I want to tell Him face to face, "Thank You for bearing the _____ to atone for my sins. Thank you for investing your _____ to redeem my soul." I want to see the Holy Spirit. My body has been the _____ of the Holy Spirit, and I want to know more about Him. I want to see the myriads of myriads of angels, and the cherubim and the seraphim.

I want to _____ with those I've studied about in the Bible: Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, Stephen, Paul, Timothy, Esther, Ruth, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Dorcas, and many others. I want to see my Christian loved ones, family, teachers, and friends. I want to meet the innocent who died as infants and small children. Heaven will be full of _____. The Bible says, "By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it" (Revelation 21:24).

We'll be surprised at who's there, for God's _____ is wondrous. We'll also be surprised at who is _____ there, for people have secret sins. Whoever is there, I want to love them. The Bible says the leaves on the tree of life are for the "_____ " of the nations (Revelation 22:2). We all need healing. Whatever pain or hurt or bitterness we've known in this life will be _____ in the next life. God will _____ all the things that cause us anguish or frustration.

The Bible says that God "will wipe away every _____ from their eyes; and there will no longer be any _____; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4-5). God is giving us a true _____, a place where every need is met and every sorrow erased. It will be a place _____ to utter joy and devotion to God. I want a home like that!

Since Jackie and I married we've lived in _____ houses. Each place was special and had lots of _____. Jackie and I speak of "_____" and sometimes we mean one place and sometimes another. One day we expect to inherit a _____ home "with the Lord" in our Father's house. We expect to live there forever.

Peter said that we'll _____ an inheritance "that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Peter 1:4). Houses may burn or be destroyed by a disaster here, but our home in heaven is indestructible. We must constantly clean and repair our houses here, but that dwelling place will _____ have a defect or flaw. It will never be unclean. Things fade and wither here on earth, but they will be forever _____ in heaven.

Heaven will be a _____ of refuge, a sanctuary. **Read Revelation 22:1-5.**

This life is _____ of trouble, but heaven will have _____ trouble. Here we have crime, war, disease, death, immorality, and lies. We'll be free from all that in heaven. Here we can expect pain and suffering. We are imperfect people living in an imperfect world, but heaven is _____.

People who are selfish, cruel, dishonest, or immoral won't _____ us in heaven. Revelation 21:8 says, "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their _____ will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." We'll remain _____ from crime, and sin and temptation.

Read Revelation 21:2-4. Heaven doesn't need a hospital or a funeral home. We won't need police or a fire department. We don't have to worry about tornadoes or earthquakes.

We'll _____ in heaven, singing and praising God eternally. Being able to sing with myriads of angels about the _____ of our God will be a great joy. Heaven will be a place of _____. Revelation 22:3 says, "The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him." I don't know what the Lord will have us do in heaven, but we'll serve Him like priests in the temple, doing multiple tasks that glorify God. This word "serve" is associated with worship, but it also reflects the _____ devotion of obedience and love that we show God.

While we'll serve God, we'll also find heaven is a place of _____. Serving God won't tire us in heaven; it will _____ us. Revelation 14:13 says, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'"

The hope of heaven ought to _____ us. No matter what we are going through in this life, heaven will surely be _____ it all. Paul said, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the _____ that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). Our heartaches here make us _____ for heaven where there are no heartaches.

As Christians, we're foreigners here on earth. Peter said, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the _____, which wage war against your _____" (1 Peter 2:11). We sing the old hymn, "This world is not my home; I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore." Oh, this world is not our home; and our hearts long for what God has _____ for us.

God called Abraham to leave his home, and by faith Abraham _____. "He went out, not knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:10 says that Abraham "was _____ for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." You won't _____ a city here on earth like that. Hebrews 13:14 says, "For here we do not have a _____ city, but we are seeking the city which is to come." That city is in heaven.

The apostle Peter said, "But according to his _____ we are waiting for new heavens

and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Some think this new heavens and new earth is this earth after it has been _____ with fire. They say the righteous will live eternally on a reconstituted earth. But the Bible teaches that “the heavens will be _____ by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!” (2 Peter 3:12). This word “elements” refers to the basic components that make up this world: earth and air and fire and water. This world, as we know it, will be _____ destroyed. It will be no more.

Revelation 21:1 says, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth _____ away, and there is no longer any sea.” Speaking of heaven, Paul said, “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot _____ the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable” (1 Corinthians 15:50). The Lord began preparing a place for us, you and me, in the Father’s house when He ascended to heaven according to John 14:2. Heaven is not this earth. God has something _____ in store for us.

Heaven will be better than anything on earth. Revelation 21:23 says, “And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to _____ on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.” The earth needs a sun and moon, but the new heavens and new earth have God Himself. It will be a _____ and different kind of place to live, physically and spiritually. I don’t want to live even one hour without the hope of heaven or the promise of God. My friend, are you spiritually _____ with God? I ask you, will heaven be your home? I hope that you will put everything in your heart towards _____ God who’ll give you that home.

If I miss a ball game, I haven’t missed much. If I miss an important appointment, I’m disappointed and may suffer loss; but you know life will go on. If I miss heaven, however, I’ve lost _____. Nothing else matters.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Unfortunately, not everyone has a _____ for God or wants to be with God. Their hearts are somewhere _____, and they don’t long for heaven, the heaven that’s described in the Bible. Because they haven’t _____ themselves for heaven they won’t enjoy it. To enjoy heaven, the Bible presupposes that people _____ to be close to God and to love Him. The Lord said, “Blessed are the _____ in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

To be pure in heart means that God and His will are dominant in our thinking and in our behavior. People claim they want to go to heaven, but not everyone is willing to _____ their hearts and lives to prepare for heaven. If you love sin more than you love God, you’ll probably feel out of place in heaven. If you don’t know God or enjoy worship here, you’re probably not _____ in heart for heaven. Don’t miss heaven! Don’t lose your opportunity to live with God forever.

Become a Christian by placing your _____ in the Lord with all your heart. Believe and confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Repent of your sins and turn your heart and life toward the Lord. Live everyday for Him. Be baptized, that is immersed in water, and do it in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be _____ away. Get involved in church and stay faithful to the Lord. Are you ready for heaven? Are you right with God?