



House of Peace Outlines

HEAVEN SERIES

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Águilas Centro Familiar Cristiano

¿WHY IS HEAVEN AN IMPORTANT PLACE?

“¹¹ ... He has also set eternity in the human heart... (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV).

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| <p><u>Weekly Announcements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie Night: June 9th • Massive Baptisms: June 11th • Reviving the Fire “youth”: June 16-18 • Retreat 3 Days of Power “adults”: June 30th- July 2nd • Fireworks Stand: June 30th- July 4th | <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover the three levels of heaven. • Understand that our residency and wealth is in heaven. • Learn why heaven is an important place. |
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Introduction:
Nowadays, churches do not preach about heaven so

Illustration: *“When a Sunday school teacher tested her students on how a person could go to heaven, she received many answers. One of her students said, “A person does not go to heaven because they are good, nor because they have a lot of money”. So, the teacher asked them, “Then, how is it that someone goes to heaven?” Before any of the other students answered, a little boy shouted, “For a person to go to heaven they have to be dead”. This was definitely a good answer, although we wouldn’t have to be dead if Christ returned before to take us to heaven with Him. However, if Christ does not return, then the person does have to die. Every second that passes by three people die in the world, and they are heading to heaven or hell; which adds up to about 260,000 people each day” (Dr. Abel Ledezma).*

much. Heaven is mentioned over 500 times in the scriptures. It is a consistent topic in the Bible and in our culture, but the average Christian knows very little about heaven. Therefore, today we will be studying the importance of heaven.

1. THE THREE LEVELS OF HEAVEN (2 Corinthians 12:2-5 NIV).

- A. **The first heaven:** We call this first heaven, “atmosphere”. This is the heaven or sky we all see when we are outside (Isaiah 55:9-10 NIV). This heaven is the atmosphere that surrounds the earth, the realm where the clouds are and the birds fly (Genesis 1:20 NIV).
- B. **The second heaven:** This heaven is mentioned as the realm where the celestial bodies such as the sun, the moon, the stars, the planets, and the galaxies are, other than planet earth. We refer to all this as “outer space”, where we send our satellites and space crafts to travel (Genesis 1:14-20 NIV).
- C. **The third heaven:** When Paul describes how he is taken to the third heaven, he doesn’t say where he was. In fact, he didn’t even know where he was. We can only assume that it was a place beyond the atmospheric heaven and stars. It was the place where God dwelled (2 Corinthians 12:2-4 NIV).
- D. The third heaven where God took Paul physically or spiritually, we are not sure, is the heaven where God dwells and it’s the place we are destined to go as sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father. This is why Jesus taught his disciples to pray to “our Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:9 NIV).

2. A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN (John 14:1-6 NIV).

- A. This passage shows how the disciples were confused about Christ’s future. Jesus was going to die, be buried, then resurrect and go back to heaven. As the disciples continued to misunderstand Jesus Christ’s mission, they felt a lot of pain because they knew He would leave them.

- B. Therefore, in John 14 the Lord shares a truth to comfort them because of the pain they were experiencing, “... *My Father’s house has many rooms... I go and prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am...*” “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*” (John 14:2-6 NIV).
- C. This promise was not only for the disciples but for us too. Heaven is a real place that is being prepared by the Lord Jesus to receive all those who have accepted Him as their Lord and personal Savior.
- D. Our Heavenly Father’s house is a permanent place where we will be in His presence forever. This place is not a feeling, nor a point of view neither an attitude. It is not a place we created because of our good deeds here on earth. Now, where is this place?
- E. It cannot be said exactly where the third heaven is located, but the Bible indicates that it’s above us and beyond what the most powerful telescope could see. However, even if we don’t know exactly where this heaven is, we know that there is a specific place that the Lord has prepared for us (Ephesians 4:10).
3. **THE BENEFITS OF HEAVEN** (*Philippians 3:20 NIV*).
- A. **We are citizens of heaven:** This does not mean that we are already in heaven, but that heaven will be our official residency. If you belong to the Lord, then your name will be written in the Book of Life and you have a reservation in heaven. Christ told his disciples, “... rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20 NIV).
- B. **Our lasting relationships exist in heaven:** The Word describes heaven as a beautiful place, but I think that all that beauty will be insignificant once we see the beauty of our Redeemer, Jesus. He is our most important relationship. All our loved ones and friends who died in Christ will also be waiting for us in heaven (Hebrews 12:23 NIV).
- C. **The rewards of heaven:** The Bible says that those who have persevered till the end of the race will receive a crown of life, “... *But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life*” (Revelation 2:10 NLT).
- D. **The riches of heaven:** Jesus told his disciples to not store treasures on earth, but in heaven. What does it mean to store treasures in heaven? To win souls and make disciples. The only thing we are going to take to heaven are the souls who accepted Jesus in their hearts, our spiritual family. Therefore, if we desire to have gains in heaven, then we must disciple the people we have been entrusted with.

Conclusion: *If you still haven’t accepted the Lord Jesus in your heart, today is a good opportunity to make sure your name is in the Book of Life. Heaven is a real place that you don’t want to miss. Come on, pray the following prayer:*

Practical Application:

- Pray the Salvation Prayer together and take time to pray for another’s personal petitions.

Interactive Questions:

- Why do you think heaven is an important place for you and your family?
- What previous idea did you have about heaven? ¿Has it changed?

**SALVATION
PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and life, so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior. amen.

WHAT IS YOUR DESTINY?

“15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees, and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess” (Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NIV).

Weekly Announcements:

- *Tabernacle: Monday’s at 7:00 P.M.*
- *Reviving the Fire “youth”. June 16-18*
- *Retreat 3 Days of Power “adults”. June 30th. July 2nd*
- *Fireworks Stand- June 30th- July 4th*

Objectives:

- To learn about the destiny of Lazarus and the wealthy man’s destiny.
- To understand how our decisions affect our eternity.

Illustration: ¹⁹There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ ²⁵“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’ ²⁷“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family,’ ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ ³⁰“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead” (Lucas 16:19-31 NIV).

Introduction: Each person decides their final destiny. God has given us a free will to choose the path we desire to take whether it is life or death. Every person wants to know what happens with those who die. Where do they go and how are they? Therefore, today we will be learning about two different men in the Bible and their destinies after earthly life.

1. THE DESTINY OF LAZARUS (Luke 16:22 NIV).

- A. When someone asks, where are my loved ones now? After they die, obviously people are not asking about the body, but the soul, the true being. The physical body is in the grave, but what happens with that which is not physical in a person?
- B. Lazarus was a beggar that would eat the crumbs of the banquets the wealthy man would have. He did not have any servants to look after him, all he had was a dog that would lick his wounds. It’s obvious that the life of Lazarus on earth wasn’t the best, but his eternity was.
- C. In the story, we can see that Lazarus died first, and since he was poor his body was buried in a cemetery for outsiders or possibly thrown into a dunghill outside of Jerusalem. However, his soul (whom he really is) was taken to Abraham’s side (Luke 16:22).
- D. Abraham’s side was also called Paradise. This was the place of rest where the righteous went after death, and this was the destiny of Lazarus. Apostle Paul compares paradise to the third heaven, therefore, today Paradise is the third heaven where Christ lives. What does this mean? It means that when a son or daughter of God dies (before Jesus returns for His Church) their soul is resting in the third heaven with an intermediate body until their physical body is still in the grave (2 Corinthians 12:2-4).

- E. We will have an intermediate body while we are in heaven, waiting for our original body to resurrect. We are not told exactly what it's going to look like, all I can imagine is that it will be a manifestation of the spirit, which is the real person in the form of a body (2 Corinthians 5:1-5). The point is that we will be in the Lord's presence before and after the Rapture.

2. THE WEALTHY MAN'S DESTINY (*Luke 16:22-26 NIV*).

- A. The wealthy man dies and his destiny is hell. Now, before continuing I want to clarify that being poor or wealthy has nothing to do with salvation. God desires that we are prospered in all things just as our soul prospers. Therefore, the wealthy man went to hell, not because he was wealthy nor did the poor man go to heaven because God felt sorry for him, instead their destinies depended on the decision each of them made while they were on earth. This was the decision to accept God as the King of their lives and to have a genuine relationship with Him, or not to do choose this and do their own will.
- B. Just as there is a type of "intermediate" for those who die before Christ returns, there is also an intermediate hell called Hades for those who die without knowing Jesus. When a person dies without knowing Jesus their body goes to the grave and their soul and spirit go to Hades. When Jesus Christ returns and the final judgment is made that person will go to hell (Revelation 20:13-14).
- C. People have asked me if I believe in hell, and my answer is, "Yes, because if there isn't an eternal hell, then there wouldn't be an eternal heaven". The Bible speaks more about hell than heaven. Our opinions about this topic will make no difference. Hell is what the Bible says it is.

3. OUR DECISIONS TODAY AFFECT OUR ETERNITY (*Luke 16:26 NIV*).

- A. The decision we make regarding eternity will be made here on earth because once we pass there will be no way to cross to the other side. There is no such thing as "purgatory" where a person has another chance to make it to heaven. The Bible mentions that there is a great chasm between heaven and hell and no one can cross over to the other side. This tells us that the time to make wise decisions is now and not after death.
- B. The only thing that comes after death is judgment (Hebrews 9:27). This is why any decision we make about eternity will have to be made on earth while we are still living. To spend eternity in heaven with Christ is amazing, but this requires a decision from each of us right now, while we are still alive (2 Corinthians 6:2).
- C. Our priority shouldn't be to be in heaven but to be with Christ. It doesn't matter what heaven looks like as long as Christ is there we will be fine. It wasn't heaven who saved us, but Jesus Christ. Heaven isn't going to return for us, Jesus is. Therefore, our priority as we make this decision should be to live with Christ.

Conclusion: *God has loved us so much that since the beginning He placed two-three in the garden of Eden so that we would have the opportunity to choose to obey Him or not. He never forced us to love Him, instead, He wanted us to make our choice. Today, we continue having the power to choose. What will you decide? We invite you to make the following prayer and to decide to love the lover of your soul, Jesus.*

Interactive Questions:

How are your current decisions impacting your future?
 What destiny do you wish to have in eternity?
 What decisions have you been making?

Personal Application:

- Guide your House of Peace members to reflect on the state of their lives.
- Take time to minister their needs and pray for them.

SALVATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and life, so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.

IS HEAVEN BORING?

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. ” (Psalm 16:11 NLT).

Weekly Announcements:

- Tabernacle: Monday's 7:00 P.M.
- Retreat 3 Days of Power "adults": June 30th to July 2nd
- Discipleship for pastors, elders & mentors: July 11th
- Fireworks stand: June 30th to July 4th

Objectives:

- Understand that God and heaven are not boring.
- Understand that we will not be boring nor what we will do in heaven will be boring.
- Discover that we have always longed to be in heaven.

Illustration: *“The science fiction writer, Isaac Asimov wrote the following, “I do not believe in the afterlife; therefore, I don’t have to live my whole life fearing hell or even worst, fearing heaven. I think that the torture that one suffers in hell wouldn’t be as worse than the boredom one in heaven would have to suffer”. When we start to believe that heaven will be boring this means we are believing God is boring; and that is absurd. Our desire for pleasure and the experience of happiness all comes directly from God’s hands. He made our taste buds and adrenaline, He created sex (desires) and the nerve that transports pleasure to our brains. Our ability to be happy and to rejoice were made by the same God we accuse of being boring. Are we so ignorant that we think human beings were the ones who came up with the idea of having fun?” (Randy Alcorn).*

Introduction: *Most people think that once they get to heaven there will be nothing more to do; they think they’re going to spend eternity doing nothing. Due to this belief, people think heaven will be a boring place, but this is not true. Therefore, today we will be discovering the reasons that tell us why heaven will not be a boring place.*

1. GOD IS NOT BORING (Psalm 16:11 NLT).

- A. I don’t know why people would think God’s presence is a something boring. The qualities we admire in others are real in God. He is the source of everything that fascinates you and I. The Lord is the Creator of everything that calls our attention and excites us.
- B. Heaven will not be boring because God is not boring. He is the Creator of heaven and earth. He is the One who gave us the desire to experience joy and pleasure. All this and much more than what we know comes directly from His hands (Psalm 139:14 NLT).
- C. The Bible says that the fruit of Holy Spirit among others is love, joy, peace and patience (Galatians 5:22-24 NLT). It says that Lord’s eyes are like flames of fire, His face is like the sun, His head and neck are as white as snow, His feet are like polished bronze and His voice like the sound of many waters (Revelation 1:14-16). God, Himself is wonderful; He is the Author of life!
- D. You too are made in the image and likeness of God; therefore, you’re not boring either. The Word says that we will be transformed (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). Maybe in this life, we are not the most charismatic, but in heaven, we will be different people. We will look even more like Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29).

2. YOUR FRIENDS WILL NOT BE BORING (*Hebrews 12:22-23 NIV*).

- A. We are going to spend eternity with the angels, whom are the congregation of the Church of Christ. Heaven will be the most exciting place we can ever imagine.
- B. Heaven will be completely different from this life on earth. Here on earth, even the best people are questioned in regard to their motives and their ways of being; but in heaven, this will not exist. In heaven, there will be complete honesty, and the things that separated us here on earth will not be a problem in heaven.
- C. We will have the opportunity to fellowship with the saints in history. We will know and commune with people who lived during another time.

3. YOUR WORK WILL NOT BE BORING (*Revelation 7:15 NIV*).

- A. Heaven will not be boring because our work will keep us occupied and intrigued. We will not have time to be bored.
- B. Through the book of Revelation, we are able to take a peek at the kind of work we will perform. What we don't know is how involved we will be in these services, but what I am sure about is that there are works or services that will be taken to pass. Everyone will be given a service or work according to our abilities and desires (Matthew 25:21).
- C. During the first thousand years, the millennial, we will govern with Jesus Christ over the new earth. Without a doubt, we will have tasks to perform during this time. Imagine being a "civilian and servant" in a government where Christ is the head for a thousand years. Everything we do in heaven will be forever and it will be fun, we will not know what it is to be bored.

4. HEAVEN IN THE PLACE WE HAVE ALWAYS LONGED FOR (*Romans 8:22-23 NLT*).

- A. Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that God put eternity in our hearts. This is why what we long for can only be satisfied by heaven; for nothing on earth can satisfy the eternal void in our hearts.
- B. We have been created for a perfect heaven and we will not be satisfied until we get to heaven. Unfortunately, the world only awakens desires in us that cannot be satisfied, and these are spiritual desires that can only be satisfied in God's presence.
- C. When we get to heaven there will be no more pain; everything we do will bring us absolute satisfaction and complete rewards. The reason we are going to get bored in heaven is that heaven is everything we have longed for (Psalm 84:2).

Conclusion: *Are you sure heaven's promise is for you? Jesus promised us that he had gone to prepare a place for us so that where he would be, we could also be. If you still haven't accepted Jesus Christ into your heart, pray the following prayer:*

Personal Application:

- Express a few comments in regard to how everyone feels about this topic.
- Ask the following question, how do you imagine heaven in like?

Interactive questions:

- Why is heaven not going to be a boring place for you?
- How do you know that heaven is the place you've always longed for?
- What do you think about having to work in heaven? Will it be tough?

**SALVATION
PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and life, so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.