



*“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”*

Philippians 3:20–21

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if 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. John 14:1-3*

## I. The Glorious Destination of Believers

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him—**but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.** 1 Corinthians 2:9

What we otherwise could not have known about Heaven, because we’re unable to see it, God says he has revealed to us through his Spirit. This means that God reveals to us what Heaven is like.

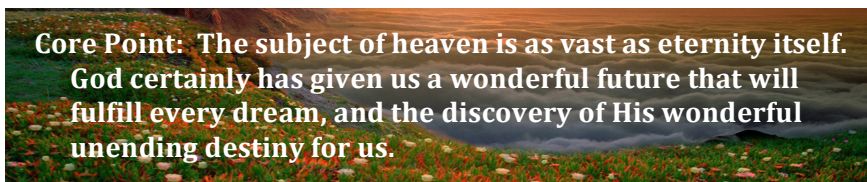
*To long for Christ is to long for Heaven, for that is where we will be with him. God’s people are “longing for a better country” (Hebrews 11:16). We cannot set our eyes on Christ without setting our eyes on Heaven, and we cannot set our eyes on Heaven without setting our eyes on Christ. Randy Alcorn*

### Why learn about heaven?

*“If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” C. S. Lewis*

### What will Heaven be like?

God made to be both physical and spiritual; we are not designed to live in a non-physical realm. **Heaven is the most real place ever.**



Twice in John 14:1-3, Jesus calls heaven **a place**. He means that heaven (“my Father’s house”) is a real place, as real (or more real) than any place we have been.

## II. The Temporary Nature of the Present Heaven

When a Christian dies, he or she enters into what is referred to in **theology as the intermediate state, a transitional period between our past lives on Earth and our future resurrection to life on the New Earth.**

Theologian René Pache writes, *“The emphasis on the present heaven is clearly rest, cessation from earth’s battles and comforts from earth’s sufferings. The future heaven is centered more on activity and expansion, serving Christ and reigning with Him. The scope is much larger, the great city with its twelve gates, people coming and going, nations to rule. In other words, the emphasis in the present heaven is on the absence of earth’s negatives, while in the future heaven it is the presence of earth’s positives, magnified many times through the power and glory of resurrected bodies on a resurrected Earth, free at last from sin and shame and all that would hinder both joy and achievement.”*

## III. The Greatest Prize of Heaven

With all the incredible realities heaven gives to us the greatest by far is the seeing God our Father, and Jesus our Savior **face to face.**

Augustine writes, “God Himself, who is the Author of virtue, shall be our reward. As there is nothing greater or better than God Himself, God has promised us Himself. God shall be the end of all our desires, who will be seen without end, loved without cloy, and praised without weariness.”

“We will constantly be more amazed with God, more in love with God, and thus ever more relishing His presence and our relationship with Him. Our experience of God will never reach its consummation. We will never finally arrive, as if upon reaching a peak we discover there is nothing beyond. Our experience of God will never become stale. It will deepen and develop, intensify and amplify, unfold and increase, broaden and balloon.” Sam Storms

*His presence brings satisfaction; His absence brings thirst and longing. Our longing for Heaven is a longing for God. Being with God is the heart and soul of Heaven. Every other heavenly pleasure will derive from and be secondary to His presence. God’s greatest gift to us is, and always will be, Himself. Randy Alcorn*

