

I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN
1 Peter 1:3-9

Introduction:

1. **A church invited me to come for a Gospel Meeting.**
2. **They ask every preacher they invite to fill out a questionnaire.**
3. **One of the questions was: “What are the motivation and goals of your ministry?”**
4. **My answer was simple: “I want to go to Heaven and I want to help as many others go as possible.”**
5. **This is why Jesus came to this world and died for our sins.**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

6. **This is the purpose of the Great Commission (Mark 16:15,16).**
 - a. **“Preach the Gospel to every creature”- so they can go to Heaven.**
 - b. **Those who believe and are baptized will go to Heaven; those who do not will be lost.**
7. **Here are the reasons I want to go to Heaven.**

Discussion:

- I. **I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE JESUS DIED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE.**
 - A. **Jesus left Heaven, took upon Himself flesh, lived as a man that He might die for our sins, so that we could go to Heaven (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:5-8; Romans 5:6-8).**

B. No accountable being can go to Heaven apart from the sacrifice of Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:11,12; 1 Jn. 5:11, 12).

II. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT TO GO TO HELL.

A. There are only two possibilities for eternity.

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13,14).

“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 25:46).

B. Many foolishly think God is too good to send anyone to Hell.

- 1. They underestimate the blackness of sin which separates us from God (Romans 6:23).**
- 2. They forget God is a righteous God as well as a merciful God (2 Thessalonians 1:6 ff).**
- 3. They do not believe Hell is real, but Jesus used “Gehenna” (Hell) 11 of the 12 times it is found in the New Testament (Matthew 5:22, 29; 10:28; 19:18; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5).**

III. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN TO BE WITH THE BEST PEOPLE WHO HAVE EVER LIVED.

A. I want to look upon Jesus Who died for me.

**“What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon the face of the One Who saves by grace;**

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When He takes me by the hand and leads me through the promised land; what a day, glorious day that will be!”

- B. I want to see Peter, Paul, James and John, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ruth, Esther, Mary, Dorcas, Lydia and all my friends I’ve known through a lifetime of Bible study.**
- C. I want to see thousands of faithful Christians who have lived and died for Christ through the centuries.**

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9,10).

- D. I want to meet members of my family who were Christians generations before me.**
- E. I hope to see my children, grandchildren and generations to come who have lived and died in the faith.**
- F. I want to be with Christians I’ve known in my lifetime.**
 - 1. We have been blessed to associate with the best people on earth every place we have lived.**
 - 2. Our reunions with old friends at Gatlinburg are a foretaste of the reunions in Heaven.**

IV. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN TO BE IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

- A. Allen Webster wrote an article, “You Did Something Today that You Will Never Do In Heaven.”**
 - 1. You drove by a cemetery or attended a funeral.**

2. You turned on a light switch.
3. You faced temptation.
4. You were ill or visited a sick person.
5. You locked your doors.
6. You saw an aged person (maybe when you looked in the mirror).
7. You shed tears.
8. You took medicine for pain.

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

“The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light” (Revelation 21:23).

“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:27).

B. The Tree of Life will be in Heaven.

1. Adam and Eve lost access to the Tree of Life by their sin (Genesis 3).
2. The Tree of Life is now in the Paradise of God (Revelation 2:7).

Conclusion:

1. Don’t you want to go to Heaven too?
2. The Savior’s way is the only way (John 14:6; 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32; Mark 16:16).

