

IT TAKES A HEAVENLY HOME
(2 Corinthians 5:1-6)

Introduction:

1. In preaching the Gospel I've sometimes been gone for extended periods, but the day I leave, I begin counting the days until I will be home again.
2. Every human being longs to go home at some time or other.
 - a. An elderly patient in a hospital or nursing home wants to "go home."
 - b. A soldier on the battlefield longs for home and loved ones.
 - c. An old song says, "There's no place like home!"
3. GOD provides an eternal home in Heaven for His faithful children.

Discussion:

I. HEAVEN IS A PROMISED PLACE.

- A. Peter praised GOD for His wonderful promise:**

"Blessed be the GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you" (1 Pet. 1:3,4).

- B. Unlike man, GOD will keep His promise for He cannot lie.**

"... in hope of eternal life which GOD, who cannot lie, promised before time began" (Tit. 1:2).

II. HEAVEN IS A PREPARED PLACE.

- A. When a family has to move, the father usually goes ahead to prepare a place for them to live.**

- B. Jesus promised His apostles, and by extension, all His faithful followers, to prepare a place for us.**

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in GOD, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:1-3).

III. HEAVEN IS A PRECIOUS PLACE.

- A. As we grow older, memories of where we grew up become fonder.**
- B. Places are precious because of the people associated with them.**
 - 1. GOD is in Heaven (Rev. 21:3-5).**
 - 2. Jesus, our Savior, is in Heaven (Col. 3:1).**
 - 3. Our brothers and sisters are in Heaven (Eph. 3:14,15).**
- C. Places are also precious because of what they have to offer us.**
 - 1. The Tree of Life is also in Heaven (Rev. 2:7).**
 - 2. Our treasures are in Heaven (Matt. 6:19-21).**

IV. HEAVEN IS A PURE PLACE.

- A. We want our air, water, food, and medicine to be pure.**
- B. Our souls must be purified of sin in order for us to go to Heaven.**

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of GOD which lives and abides forever” (1 Pet. 1:22,23).
- C. Only the good, the righteous and the pure will be in Heaven.**

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

V. HEAVEN IS A PROTECTED PLACE.

- A. Safety and security are major concerns in our world.**
- B. Heaven is pictured as a city with high walls (Rev. 21:10-16).**
- C. GOD is Heaven’s Protector (Psa. 127:1; Rev. 21:22).**

“I will lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety” (Psa. 4:8).

VI. HEAVEN IS A PERMANENT PLACE.

- A. We are sojourners and pilgrims on this earth (1 Pet. 2:11).
 - 1. The average family moves once every five years.
 - 2. We have lived in more than 20 houses or apartments.
- B. Our citizenship is in Heaven (Phil. 3:20).
- C. The heroes of faith “looked for the city which has foundations whose Builder and Maker is GOD” (Heb. 11:10).

VII. HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF PEACE AND REST.

- A. We long for rest from our labors:
 - 1. A weary worker or tired traveler longs for home.
 - 2. “O land of rest for thee I sigh; when will the moment come, when I shall lay my armor by, and dwell in peace at home?”
- B. Heaven is a place of peace for the persecuted and rest for the weary.

“Then I heard a voice from Heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the LORD from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them’” (Rev. 14:13).
- C. In contrast, there is never any rest in Hell (Rev. 14:11).

VIII. HEAVEN IS A PAIN FREE PLACE.

- A. An old timer said of his aging body: “All the parts don’t work anymore, and the ones that do, hurt.”
- B. Paul wrote: “For we who in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life” (2 Cor. 5:4).
- C. In Heaven all sickness, sorrow, pain and weeping will be gone.

“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” (Rev. 21:4).

Conclusion:

- 1. An old Country song “Supper time” pictures our homecoming in Heaven.
- 2. Heaven is the home GOD has prepared for His children (Rev. 22:14).
- 3. Are you prepared to go home?

