

Looking Forward to Heaven

Are you looking forward to heaven? If someone asked you why, what would you tell them? In this lesson I am going to tell you why I am looking forward to heaven.

Do you know that most people cannot say that they are looking forward to heaven? It is sad that so many major world religions like Hinduism and Buddhism do not believe in eternal life. Also, there are modern-day Sadducees among us who have no belief in a life after this one.

Someday they will be surprised. The Bible is clear. There is a great day coming. It is a great day because everything bad in the world will end and a new age will begin. It is exciting to think about what is waiting for us in heaven and it is reassuring to realize that there are no bad things in heaven.

1. One reason that I am looking forward to heaven is that I **won't have any bad days in heaven.**

We all have bad hair days. Despite our best efforts, things go wrong. It could be a flat tire or your car won't start. You might wake up with a sore throat or an upset stomach. Or you get news when you arrive at work that your company is going to downsize and jobs are going to be eliminated. Despite the fact that you are an excellent worker, your name is on the layoff list. You get a phone call that your brother's wife has cancer and there is nothing else the doctors can do.

Ecclesiastes 3:2 says that there is "A time to be born, and a time to die."

I won't hear any of those things in heaven. No suffering of any kind will exist in heaven.

Revelation 21:4 says that "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." Doesn't that sound terrific!

2. I am also looking forward to heaven because there will **not be any bad events in heaven.**

You cannot turn on the daily news without hearing about human misery from natural disasters like droughts, famines, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, or hurricanes.

These things do not exist around the throne of God. You will not even be uncomfortable from being too hot or too cold.

Revelation 7:15-17 says "¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." That sounds like paradise to me. That's where I want to be. How about you?

3. I want to go to heaven because **there will be no bad people in heaven.**

Evil people cause so much misery in the world. Greed, lust, envy, power, selfish ambition, anger, and revenge drive people to do terrible things to others simply to satisfy their own sinful desires. They don't care who they step on, push around, or stab in the back to get what they want. Power hungry people oppress others to grab whatever they desire. Countries are at war against each other.

Ecclesiastes 4:1 says "Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter. On the side of their oppressors there is power, but they have no comforter."

Ecclesiastes 8:9 says "All this I have seen, and applied my heart to every work that is done under the sun: There is a time in which one man rules over another to his own hurt."

In heaven you will not have to worry about mean people doing violent cruel things to others, or suicide bombers, or airplanes being hijacked and flown into buildings or mountains.

Revelation 21:27 describes heaven by saying "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." That's a place where I want to live, don't you.

4. I am looking forward to heaven because there will be no sin in heaven.

We all struggle with temptation and sin. Even the apostle Paul wrote about his internal conflicts in **Romans 7:19-20** ¹⁹For the good that I want to do, I do not do; but the evil I don't want to do, that I practice. ²⁰Now if I do what I don't want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."

Isaiah said, "I am a man of unclean lips." - **Isaiah 6:5**.

Peter said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" - **Luke 5:8**.

We want to be Christ-like but we are faced with the reality of our weaknesses and failings. But someday we will be like Him.

1 John 3:2 says, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

2 Peter 3:13 assures us that "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

5. I am looking forward to heaven because heaven will last forever.

In this life good times turn into bad times. Peace treaties are broken. Vacations come to an end. Youth and good health do not last. And sometimes I even run out of ice cream at home. But the blessings of heaven last forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 says "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

1 Peter 1:4 says we will receive "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."

Action on our part is required to enjoy a life in heaven.

Yes, **Ephesians 2:8** says that we are saved by grace through faith.

But the Bible also says that not everyone is going to enjoy heaven.

Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

What does Jesus want us to do to accept God's grace to go to heaven? The Bible tells us what to do.

Revelation 22:14 says "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."

Jesus said in **John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

He also said in **Mark 16:16**, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

And Jesus promised in **Revelation 2:10** "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."