

# HEAVEN

## What's Real, What's Not

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info

### PART 1: IS HEAVEN A REAL PLACE?

“Heaven remains the place that everyone hopes to reach someday, but which almost



no one wants to be taken to right now. We may well arrive at a deeper understanding of Christ's love than we thought was possible and find awakening within us a renewed and richer love for him. We may even thrill to the discovery that there is a romance between Christ and his bride—and find ourselves caught up in its wonder and joy” (Dave Hunt).

#### A. Is heaven a real place?

---

- Yes, heaven is the real place, not a figment of our imagination (John 14:1-2).
- Yes, Jesus also taught us to pray to “our Father in heaven” (Matt. 6:9-10).
- Yes, heaven is a different place than earth (Rev. 21:9-27).

#### B. Defining heaven.

---

- Heaven is where God most fully reveals his glory, and where angels, other heavenly creatures, and redeemed saints all worship him.

#### C. Where is heaven?

---

- The Bible does not clearly say specifically where heaven is; however, the word “up” is often associated with the location of heaven (Acts 1:2; 2 Cor. 12:2; Rev. 4:1).
- Heaven may be somewhere in a far corner of the universe, shrouded from human view behind a cloud of God's glory, or in an entirely different physical dimension.

#### D. All people “thirst” to live forever! (Eccles. 3:11).

---

- Only Jesus can satisfy that inner need (John 7:37).
- Jesus addresses this universal longing by offering Himself as the answer.
- Spiritual thirst can only be satisfied by coming to Jesus.

### **E. Three major worldviews of life.**

---

- Cyclical View: Life is an endless circle (ancient Greeks, Hinduism, New Age).
- The Terminal view: Life ceases at death (evolutionists, atheists).
- Christian View: Life has a purpose and a goal (Job 42:2; Isa. 46:10; 43:13).

### **F. Views of life after death.**

---

- Christian Science: Death is not real; heaven is a state of mind.
- Jehovah's Witnesses: Only 144,000 will live in heaven.
- Islam: Muslims go to a sensual garden at death.
- Buddhism: You get reincarnated into another person at death.
- Mormonism: Good Mormons become gods.
- Universalism: Everyone will go to heaven.
- Roman Catholicism: Souls will first go to purgatory.
- The Biblical View: Believers go to be with Christ in heaven immediately after death (Luke 23:43; Acts 7:59; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; Philip. 1:21-23).

### **G. What's not real about heaven.**

---

- Misconception: Heaven doesn't exist.
- Misconception: Heaven will be very boring.
- Misconception: We won't know anyone or anything from earth.
- Misconception: We will be bodiless spirits, vapor-like beings.
- Misconception: Time won't exist in heaven.

### **H. What is real about heaven.**

---

- Heaven's beauty and wonder will be beyond our imagination (1 Cor. 2:9).
- Heaven is only for those people who have been born again (John 3:3).
- Heaven will be filled with singing (Rev. 5:13).
- A Holy City, Jerusalem, will come down out of heaven (Rev. 21:10, 16).
- The gates of heaven will never be closed (Rev. 21:25a).
- There will be no night in heaven (Rev. 21:25b; 22:5).
- There will be no sin in heaven (Rom. 6:6-7; 1 Cor. 15:52; Rev. 21:8, 27; 22:15).
- Heaven will have a river of life flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb; it will flow down the middle of the great street of the city (Rev. 22:1).
- We will see God's face, and his name will be on our foreheads (Rev. 22:4).
- All things in heaven and on earth will be together under one head, Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:10).
- No longer will there be any curse (Rev. 22:3).