

INTRODUCTION:

Nipsy Russell – “everyone wants to go to heaven, but no body wants to die”. The word "heaven" is found 501 verses in the Bible; 237 in the N.T. The Hebrew and Greek words that are translated "heaven" have similar meanings.

I) Background And Facts

A) In the Greek, the word comes from a root meaning "to rise."

1. Lofty and elevated are words associated with the Hebrew and Greek words.
2. The abode of God, the seat of order of things eternal and consummately perfect.

B) There are numerous interesting verses about heaven in the Bible.

1. God through His prophets said: Heaven is my throne
Acts 7:49
2. Jesus is in heaven, *Acts 1:11; 1 Peter 3:22*

C) Heaven and the Christian:

1. Our conversation (citizenship NKJV) (the state of which

we are citizens TCNT)is in heaven, *Phil. 3:20*

- a. Where we belong, associated with, have rights, privileges, and responsibilities.
2. Our hope is laid up for us in heaven, *Col. 1:5*
3. In heaven, we have a better and an enduring substance, *Heb. 10:34*
4. Heaven is our inheritance. It is perfect and we have a reservation therein, *I Pet. 1:4*

*In this lesson, we will describe heaven in five different ways.

I) HEAVEN IS A PLACE (Real)

- A) When the Bible speaks of heaven, it is not some fabricated, mystical land.
- B) Heaven is a place that is actual and real. *Psalms 11:4*

II) HEAVEN IS A KINGDOM (Rule)

- A) Verses which speak of heaven as a kingdom. *II Timothy 4:18; II Peter 1:10-11*
- B) As Christians, we are residents, that is, citizens of this heavenly kingdom.
 1. In this world, we are sojourners or travelers. This globe, however, is not our country of residence.

2. We are citizens of heaven, that territory subject to the rule of the Almighty God.
3. This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through, and I can't feel at home in this world any more.

III) HEAVEN IS A CITY (Regard)

- A) Four times in the book of Hebrews our hope of an eternal city is mentioned. *Hebrews 11:10; 11:16; 12:22; 13:14*
- B) Most individuals have a deep regard for their city. They have an affection for it, an affinity, and a bond with it.
 1. The city where one resides is where one's roots are.
 2. They have developed many precious memories therein.
 3. In small towns, individuals take a very active role in their city.
- C) Heaven is our city. That is the place for which we have a high regard.

IV) HEAVEN IS A MANSION (Refuge & Residence)

- A) As described by Jesus *John 14:1-3*
- B) We have hymns that mention and remind us of our mansion: "I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop."
- C) Most individuals have a house. Regardless of how big or small most believe: "My house is my castle."

1. Our house is our place of refuge. Man cave, she shed, etc.
 - a. The world comes crashing in, but our house is a safe haven.
 - b. There can be war outside our home, but our house is a place of peace.
2. We have a mansion. It is a safe harbor and a place of ultimate peace and tranquility; *Revelation 21:4*

V) HEAVEN IS A HOME (Relationship)

- A) Not one time does the Bible refer to heaven as our home.**
- B) Why, then, do we call heaven our home? Why do we sing songs that call heaven our home?**
- C) It could be due to the relationship that we have with our Father.**
 1. Our Father resides in heaven. It is His home.
 2. When we go to be with our Father, we, too, will be at home.
- D) It is absolutely impossible for us to accurately describe how wonderful it will be to finally be at home over there.**

CONCLUSION:

Where will you spend your eternity? If you are making plans for heaven, the Lord tells us how to reach it in *Matthew 7:21*. To paraphrase Nipsy

Russell – everyone wants to go to heaven but few are willing to do what it takes to get there.