

Eager Anticipation

Introduction:

Anticipation of good things is one of the wonderful things about having the ability to reason; being human. Looking forward with eager anticipation is something we do vacations, visits, and certainly about goals that we want to reach. We should have eager anticipation for our goal of Heaven and it should be ever-increasing (2 Peter 3:12).

We do not know when our lives will end, but we do know that each day draws the end one day closer (Hebrews 9:27). To many, death is a dreadful thing. Those who have no faith beyond this life, dread is all that they have. For those with the hope of Heaven, there should be no dread in the mortal transition from here to eternity.

To promote a great anticipation God has revealed to us some very important words. In those words we have descriptions of Heaven's beauty; we have directions on how to prepare for Heaven; and we have motivations to stay the course, all the way there. In this article let's consider God's word in those three points.

Heaven is a Beautiful Place

The kingdom of Heaven has greater value than some understand. Matthew 13:44-46 teaches us to value the hope of Heaven. We are taught that Heaven is a far greater treasure than any that could be possessed in this life. We learn that it is worth giving up anything, or everything, if it is keeping us from Heaven. In truth, nothing should be considered more valuable. Not man's wisdom or higher thinking (Colossians 2:18). Not material things; worldly wealth (Matthew 16:26). Not hardships; trials; or temptations (Romans 8:18).

The place called Heaven is glorious; it is illuminated by the glory of God (Revelation 21:22-27). Heaven is prepared specifically to suit our eternal needs (John 14:1-6); it is the perfect place for the soul (Revelation 14:12-13).

How to prepare for Heaven

The road to Heaven is an impossible journey, without God's help. There are many things that some evaluate highly in this life; that will not get us to Heaven. The Apostle Paul exposes human greatness, as resistant to the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:20-25). Being dependent on human wisdom, might, or nobility will not help us get to Heaven; they are not things that amount to much in our being saved. We must humbly seek God's help. God shows us His path and teaches us the way to walk on it (James 1:17-25).

Relying on God's directions is the only thing that will prepare us to enter Heaven—*to be saved* (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16). The directions are clear. Jesus told us the way—*the narrow gate* (Matthew 7:13-14) and we must to travel Jesus' way (1 Peter 2:21-23). We must continually abide in His word (John 8:31); in His doctrine (2 John 9) because there is no other way (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Staying the Course

It is common knowledge among travelers that requirement can change from place to place. It is always wise to learn about our destination's expectations before we arrive. How much more important is it that we know the requirements of Heaven? We do not want to believe, all along, that we are going to be turned back in the end; we cannot just seem to think we are doing okay (Psalm 14:12).

The requirement of Heaven is righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Revelation 21:27). Knowing this, we need to take care of our sinful condition to be prepared for entrance there. God has set in order a plan, through His Son, in which we can have freedom from our sins. If we obey that plan, and convert our lives to righteous service, we will be prepared to enter our destination (Romans 1:16; Acts 2:36-39).

We thing we must consider and properly understand is that Jesus' pathway is a life-long-path—*it is a full-commitment*. Life is always uncertain but for many life can be a long journey and, to succeed, we all need to have patience (Hebrews 6:12; Revelation 14:12-13); endurance (Hebrews 10:35-39); and steadfastness (Philippians 2:14-16).

Conclusion:

If you are newborn or in your nineties, or beyond, we are all on life's journey. What makes this journey better is the eager anticipation of Heaven.

Do you have the hope of Heaven? It is not enough to admire Heaven as a place. It is not enough to wish you will go there. We must prepare ourselves to enter.

God has given us the direction and He desires that you will be saved and spend eternity with Him (2 Peter 3:9). The hope can be yours today if you will follow God's way—*are you ready to have hope?* Come to God today through Jesus Christ. Prepare today; obey Him now! ~tss