Heaven

By Tim Allerheiligen

You’re born, you hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ later on in your life, you get saved, you live, you die, you go to Heaven, and now you are stuck in the clouds for all eternity. Now what? And yet you have also heard that it was going to be a better place; a paradise, so to speak. Well, this place they call “Heaven” seems a bit dull if you ask me. But, what if what you heard about Heaven from the media was wrong? There is no place that is all about the clouds, pearly gates, the white robes or togas, the architectural structures based on designs from ancient Rome or Greece, a lot of aspects of all the different churches one has gone to in their life, and wings, halos and harps lest we forget. There never was such a place to begin with. So, what will it be like then? In this Essay, I am going to share some verses from the Bible regarding Heaven and share what I think they might mean. But keep in mind that this is still just my human envisioning; this is not the final description. As 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, *however, it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.* So, you can read these same verses yourself, share them with others and ask and compare their opinions with others and yours. So, with no further ado, let’s get back to the question at hand once again: what will Heaven be like other than what is commonly theorized in the media?

One other idea along with the first one mentioned was that Heaven will be God and all his glory for us to enjoy and worship every day on the new earth (Isaiah 65:17); that is about it; no material stuff, since most of us Christians know that the Lord is the main focus of our lives, which, by all means, is completely true. But If God alone was the one and only desire of all Christians, there would be no diversity in personality, no creativity, no art, no music, no movies, no TV, no sports, no games; NOTHING! In fact, there would be no free will, either; even non-believers would want God alone automatically, as well. We would all be an immense throng of robots, acting the same way, and wanting the exact same thing; but, nobody acts that way at all, do they? If such a reality were so, then that would also mean that Psalm 37:4 means nothing, “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.” So, what does it mean, then? It means that many of us have more things we love, with God as number one and the most important of all, instead of just God alone. It also means that even though we will get that number one desire, God, all the rest will be included, with much, much more than what we had on the list. Another point was brought to my attention once, regarding Psalm 37:4 and it stated that if you desire something, God or the secondary desire, God put the desire of said something in your heart to begin with; that being said, all our wishes, even the most farfetched ones, will come true.

Psalm 37:4 can best be supported with another verse, John 14:2, as said by Christ Jesus to his disciples: “In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.” So, what does that mean? For starters, some of the original translations used “mansion” instead of “place,” or “room;” and “mansion” came from a Greek word that meant “dwelling place.” So, it is not exactly a literal big house, or even a dinky little eighteen by sixteen room for that matter, it is just a whole new world to dwell in, or live in. Now to the “for you” part; each person might get their own share of Heaven, not a “room” or “mansion,” but their own new world, which will be custom-made to their personal fitting. So, to sum it all up, collaborating Psalm 37:4 and John 14:2, each person will get an infinity-sized world, made by God, reserved just for them in the coming after life that will be designed just the way they want it. What a person likes, with God as number one, is there waiting for them now! As I commonly like to put it, “It’s the person’s imagination brought to life;” and how much better could it get when God and all his glory is there to spice it up a bit?

There is, however, a familiar feature among the ideas of Heaven that will actually be a true fact about it: the fact that it will be a place of eternal rest, as Hebrews 4:9-11 puts it, *There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.* So, now sum that all up: with everything mentioned above, the children of God will also kick back and relax! \*NO MORE WORK!\* and just to think that not only will they be doing all kinds of stuff out of love for their Lord, but also just for the heck of it. So many Christians describe it as leaving this life of work and labor to go and just have fun! For any Christian the call sounds irresistible! As the Christian says, in the words of Mercy Me, *“I’ve never been more homesick than now.”*

Some people might say this all is nothing like Heaven at all. Some believe there is a final and absolute description of Heaven because of what the apostle John saw in a vision in some chapters of Revelation. But, those people probably forget that not even they can grasp what it is really like, not even John, since he and those people are still human. Everyone else knows this as a fact and will say that *eloquent as John was in his description of heaven, the reality of heaven is beyond the ability of finite man to describe;* hence 1 Corinthians 2:9. So, was this the final description of Heaven? Probably not; besides, that chapter seemed to just expound on the New Jerusalem; wait until we see the rest of the new earth!

Keep in mind a few things: first and foremost, since Heaven is almost made for you, it does not mean it is all about you. Our Lord and Savior is the main focus there, considering He is the one who will give to you more than what you can conjure up. Second, since Heaven is perfect, all the possibilities are unlimited, and the stuff to do there you might try planning now, after reading this, is just barely getting started off the list of things to do; there is so much more, hence 1 Corinthians 2:9, once again. However it will turn out is totally a mystery, yet your part is still all up to you. If I recall correctly, there is a saying that says *Heaven is what you make it.* And finally, this is only a little bit of scripture-based information, there is still much more in scripture that describes what Heaven is like. All in all, it is going to be ***paradise*** after all (Luke 23:43)! If you want to join the party, just remember: God suffered your eternal punishment as a human, A.K.A., Christ Jesus, so that you would not have to. All you got to do is say in prayer: “God, I know that I have sinned, I know I can’t save myself, I know why you died on the cross, and now I want you to come into my heart as my Lord and Savior,” and now you have yourself a one way ticket to Heaven. Now you live life according to the Ten Commandments as best as you can just to please God for the time being. What do you do now when you think of Heaven? Forget the “Boom County” or “Family Circus” version of it. Do not be discouraged by false stereotypes the media has depicted, the best alternative is to use your imagination.