

Matthew 25:46: And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Intro: We've been studying Jesus' last Words that He teaches His disciples right before He dies. Jesus' last Words were about Heaven & Hell. Heaven Is Real; Heaven Is God's Heaven And God's Reward; Heaven Is Unimaginable Satisfaction, Joy, And Delight; Heaven Lasts Forever (It Is Everlasting); Jesus Alone Grants Us Entry Into Heaven; Be so heavenly minded in Christ that you maximize your earthly good for the glory of God!

1. Heaven Is Real

a. Where does the reality of Heaven come from? God & we learn about Heaven in the Bible!

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

b. Heaven is described as our transcendent God's dwelling place where there is no sin or rebellion against God: Deuteronomy 26:15 Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless your people Israel

- **Psalm 11:4:** The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven

- **Matthew 3:16-17:** when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, & behold, the heavens were opened to him, & he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove & coming to rest on him; & behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- **Matthew 6:9-10:** Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

c. Heaven is where Jesus came from & where He want back to: John 3:13: No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

- **John 6:33, 38, 41:** For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven & gives life to the world. . . .³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me . . .⁴¹ So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

- **Acts 1:10-11:** while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, & said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." **[How do you get to heaven? GOSPEL!]**

2. Heaven Is God's Heaven And God's Reward

Matthew 25:46: And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

a. Think of the ways the Bible describes Heaven: Eternal Life; The Kingdom of God; The Kingdom of Heaven; Paradise; The Heavenly Jerusalem; The Eternal Kingdom; The Eternal Inheritance; The Better Country; The Father's House; Reigning With Christ; Rest; The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb; The New Heavens And New Earth; Fullness Of Joy And Pleasures Forevermore; The Joy Of Your LORD

b. God Himself is the greatest reward of Heaven: 1 Peter 3:18: For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God

- **Psalm 16:2:** I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

- **Psalm 16:11:** in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- **Psalm 73:25:** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

Jonathan Edwards: God is the highest good of the reasonable creature, & the enjoyment of him is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers & mothers, husbands, wives, children, or the company of earthly friends, are but shadows. But the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun. These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean. Therefore it

becomes us to spend this life only as a journey towards heaven, as it becomes us to make the seeking of our highest end & proper good, the whole work of our lives, to which we should subordinate all other concerns of life. Why should we labor for, or set our hearts on anything else, but that which is our proper end, & true happiness?

Be so heavenly minded in Christ that you maximize your earthly good for the glory of God!

3. Heaven Is Unimaginable Satisfaction, Joy, And Delight

a. The Bible describes believers receiving infinite & unimaginable satisfaction, joy, & delight in Heaven:

- **Matthew 25:21:** His master said to him, "Well done, good & faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

- **Isaiah 11:6-9:** The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, & the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, & the calf & the lion & the fattened calf together; & a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow & the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; & the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, & the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

- **Mark 10:28-30:** Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses & brothers & sisters & mothers & children & lands, with persecutions, & in the age to come eternal life.

- **Romans 8:18-23:** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

- **Revelation 21:1-4:** Then I saw a new heaven & a new earth, for the first heaven & the first earth had passed away, & the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, & they will be his people, & God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, & death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

b. Every happiness & joy on earth right now point us to the greater joys & happiness of Heaven: There will be no sin in Heaven – so no idolatry, no jealousy, no sin! And you will have a perfected body to enjoy God & all His pleasurable gifts!

Charles Simeon: There are but two lessons for the Christian to learn: the one is to enjoy God in every thing; the other is to enjoy every thing in God.

1) Food: **Psalm 34:8:** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

- **Psalm 63:1, 5:** O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water . . . My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food . . .

- **John 6:35:** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

2) Sex: **Jonathan Leeman:** One of the greatest ironies of the postmodern West might be this: that great symbol of pleasure in our culture for which it (consciously or not) most emphatically rejects God – sex – is the very thing God has given humanity so that it might have an analogy, a category, a language for knowing what the unadulterated enjoyment of him will be like in glory. In other words, we reject God for sex, but sex is exactly what he's given us in order to faintly grasp the experience of a perfect union with him.

3) Rest: **Isaiah 26:3**: You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.
- **Hebrews 4:9**: So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God

4) Entertainment: **Zechariah 8:5**: the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

5) Power: **2 Timothy 2:12**: if we endure, we will also reign with him

6) Glory/Fame: **Romans 8:30**: And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

7) Love: In Heaven you will have the power of God to love God! [**John 17:26**: that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.] You will love perfectly & be loved perfectly! You will be loved perfectly by your perfect Father in Heaven! You will be loved perfectly by your perfect elder Brother in Heaven, Jesus! You will be loved perfectly by your perfect Spouse in Heaven, Jesus! You will be loved perfectly by the perfected church – the saints of God! God Himself will sing over you!

- **Zephaniah 3:17**: The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

There will be no more broken hearts in heaven! No more spousal abuse or adultery or infidelity! No more divorce, pain, or loss! No more sickness – no more muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis or cancer or chronic pain or headaches or strokes or any other kind of sickness! No more car accidents! No more broken bones! No more depression or sadness! No more broken dreams! No more unfulfilled desires! You will never suffer again! (Elisabeth Elliot: Suffering is having what you don't want or wanting what you don't have.) You will never have anything in your life that you don't want in your life, & you will always have everything you do want in your life, forever!

4. Heaven Lasts Forever (It Is Everlasting)

Matthew 25:46: And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-7: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – & raised us up with him & seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

The food gets more & more & better & better!

The pleasures & joys & unimaginable sensations get more & more & better & better!

The rest gets more & more & better & better!

The happiness & delights get more & more & better & better!

Your knowledge of God gets more & more & better & better!

Your enjoyment of God gets more & more & better & better! Forever & ever for all eternity!

Jonathan Edwards: The end [goal] of the creation of God was to provide a spouse for His Son Jesus Christ that might enjoy Him & on whom He might pour forth His love. And the end of all things in providence are to make way for the exceeding expressions of Christ's love to His spouse & for her exceeding close & intimate union with, & high & glorious enjoyment of Him & to bring this to pass. And therefore the last thing & the issue of all things is the marriage of the Lamb. And the wedding day is the last day, the day of judgment, or rather that will be the beginning of it. The wedding feast is eternal; & the love & joys, the songs, entertainments & glories of the wedding never will be ended. It will be an everlasting wedding day!

Be so heavenly minded in Christ that you maximize your earthly good for the glory of God!

5. Jesus Alone Grants Us Entry Into Heaven

Only Jesus is both God & Man! Only Jesus lived a perfectly sinless life! Only Jesus died! Only Jesus rose up!

John 14:6: I am the way, & the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus is the glory of heaven: D. L. Moody (found a note in a Bible): The light of heaven is the face of Jesus!
The joy of heaven is the presence of Jesus! The melody of heaven is the name of Jesus!
The harmony of heaven is the praise of Jesus! The theme of heaven is the work of Jesus!
The employment of heaven is the service of Jesus! The duration of heaven is the eternity of Jesus!
The fullness of heaven is Jesus Himself!

- **Charles Spurgeon:** There will be little else we shall want of heaven besides Jesus Christ. He will be our bread, our food, our beauty, and our glorious dress. The atmosphere of heaven will be Christ; everything in heaven will be Christ-like: yes, Christ is the heaven of His people.

- **Samuel Rutherford:** O my Lord Jesus Christ, if I could be in heaven without thee, it would be a hell; and if I could be in hell, and have thee still, it would be a heaven to me, for thou art all the heaven I want . . . Heaven and Christ are the same thing.

Applications from the doctrine Heaven & our eternal reward:

1) Make your calling & election sure: Meet me in Heaven!

2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (1 John)

2) Set your hopes on Heaven, not on the things of this world:

- **Colossians 3:1-2:** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

- **1 Peter 1:13:** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, & being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

3) Live for Heaven, not for this world:

- **Matthew 6:19-21:** Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth & rust destroy & where thieves break in & steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys & where thieves do not break in & steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- **Jonathan Edwards:** Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can, with all the power; might, vigor, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of.

4) Know that all the pain & sacrifices in the here & now will be worth it:

Romans 8:18: For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

5) Know that all your pain & all your suffering has an expiration date:

Charles Spurgeon: (This sickness is not unto death. John 11:4) In all sickness, the Lord saith to the waves of pain, "Hitherto shall ye go, but no further." His fixed purpose is not the destruction, but the instruction of his people. The limit is encouragingly comprehensive. The God of providence has limited the time, manner, intensity, repetition, & effects of all our sicknesses; each throb is decreed, each sleepless hour predestinated, each relapse ordained, each depression of spirit foreknown, & each sanctifying result eternally purposed. Nothing great or small escapes the ordaining hand of him who numbers the hairs of our head. This limit is wisely adjusted to our strength, to the end designed, & to the grace apportioned . . . The limit is tenderly appointed. The knife of the heavenly Surgeon never cuts deeper than is absolutely necessary.

6) Bring as many people with you to Heaven as possible: Evangelize! Tell others the Gospel!

1 Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

7) Help your fellow church members/family members make it to Heaven: Disciple other people!

Matthew 28:18-20: Jesus came & said to them, "All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. & behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

8) Help your fellow church members/family members make it to Heaven with the greatest possible reward:

This is true love! True love wants the greatest joy for its beloved! True love wants the longest lasting joy for its beloved! True love wants the best quality of joy for its beloved! True love wants the greatest, most treasure filled future for its beloved! And all of that is found in Christ, becoming more like Him, and giving to others like He did.

I have a Christian friend who, when he got married, sent a registry out where he & his fiancée did not ask for any gifts for themselves. They knew they already had all their needs. They believed & lived out 1 Timothy 6:6-9:

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

Instead, they asked people to donate money to several Christ-honoring ministries: their local church where they met, orphan care, & help for the poor. They will receive their reward in heaven! And at their wedding reception, they gave away numerous solid Christian books to their guests! Oh that Christian marriages would drive us to be more focused on others & the cause of Christ in the world than on ourselves! Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive!" And we will get great rewards in the life to come that are infinitely better than the tiny treasures here on earth we so often settle for!

And we do all of this, looking unto Jesus:

Sam Storms: [Jonathan] Edwards often talked about what we won't see in heaven. Praise God for this. In Revelation 21:4 we are told there will be no tears of grief, no death or sorrow or pain. [In] verse 8 of chapter 21 we are assured by John that no one who is cowardly, lying, or unbelieving will be present; no murderers or anything abominable, immoral, or idolatrous. And again in [Revelation] 21:27 he says nothing that is unclean will be allowed to enter there. People think of the implications of what is being said. When we get to heaven there will be, said Edwards, nothing which shall offend the most delicate eye. In other words, nothing that is abrasive, irritating, agitating, or hurtful; nothing harmful, hateful, upsetting or unkind; nothing sad, bad, or mad, harsh, impatient, ungrateful, or unworthy; nothing weak or sick or broken or foolish; nothing deformed, degenerate, depraved, or disgusting; nothing polluted, pathetic, poor, or putrid; nothing dark, dismal, dismaying, or degrading; nothing blameworthy, blemished, blasphemous, or blighted; nothing faulty, faithless, frail, or fading; nothing grotesque or grievous, hideous or insidious; nothing illicit or illegal, lascivious or lustful; nothing marred or mutilated, misaligned or misinformed; nothing nasty or naughty, offensive or odious; nothing rancid or rude, soiled or spoiled, tawdry or tainted, tasteless, or tempting; nothing vile or vicious, wasteful or wanton – none of it! And all of this for hell deserving sinners like you and me.

What will we see there? Wherever you turn your eyes you see nothing but glory & grandeur & beauty & brightness & purity & perfection & splendor & satisfaction & sweetness & salvation & majesty. We'll see only & all that is adorable & affectionate, & beautiful & bright & brilliant & bountiful & delightful & delicious & delectable & dazzling & elegant & exciting & fascinating & fruitful & glorious & grand & gracious & good & happy & holy & healthy & whole & joyful & jubilant & lovely & luscious & majestic & marvelous, opulent & overwhelming,

radiant & resplendent, splendid & sublime, sweet & savory, tender & tasteful, euphoric & unified. And why?
Because we'll be looking at the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Song: There in Heaven, I'll see Jesus! Fullest pleasures, joys forevermore!
Life is true there, more true than my pain! Greater than my sorrows, forgotten memories!

Come my LORD! Take me home! To the place, I belong!
There in Heaven, right beside You! Take me home! Come my LORD!

All our sadness, will be untrue! Death is banished, joys will be greater!
Love and dancing, all our tears are gone! Perfect peace is given, sin is cast away!

Come my LORD! Take me home! To the place, I belong!
There in Heaven, right beside You! Take me home! Come my LORD!

Be so heavenly minded in Christ that you maximize your earthly good for the glory of God!

Christ Jesus Is Our Paradise
He's Heaven Doubled More Than Twice
He's Joy, Delight, And Heaven's Spice
And All Because He'd Sacrifice
To Pay For Us The Greatest Price
He Bore God's Wrath And Curse Precise
He Died And Rose To Hell-Fire Ice
He'll Do Away With Every Vice
Make All Things Good And Right And Nice
So Come To Christ Our Paradise
Deny Yourself And Sacrifice
To Be With Christ Who Does Entice
With Greatest Pleasures Tripled Thrice
He's Treasure Of The Highest Price!