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Place

There is only one hope that overcomes the pain of this world. A hope anchored beyond the veil of life and death. If we are to follow Jesus through this life of joy and sorrow, the hope of heaven is essential.

Hoping in what you cannot see

Every time I go on vacation I like to look up pictures of the place where we'll stay or the things we'll do. I like to ask people who have gone before what they enjoyed and what they would recommend that we do. It helps me get excited for what's to come. We don't have these opportunities when it comes to looking forward to heaven. We have to place our hope completely in trusting Jesus.

Read

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 14:1-3

"Heaven is not the best the world has to offer. Heaven is the best God has to offer."
— A.W. Tozer,
Delighting in God

Hebrews 12 says that "for the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the Cross." Jesus' ability to endure the suffering of the cross came because of the joy he knew he would have in heaven. In the gospel of John, Jesus invites us into this same hope.

Paul says without the hope of Heaven we are to be pitied beyond all people, because the life we are asked to live is self sacrificing. To follow Jesus is to completely trust Him that he has gone to prepare a place for us and he will come again. It's worth it!!

Preparing for Heaven

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."
-Jim Elliot

This hope in Heaven should cause us to live differently. Our time, money, relationships, dreams, and desires should all reflect the reality that heaven is a real place, and that we will be going there some day.

The Bible talks about a moment when all believers will stand before Jesus and give an account of our lives. We will receive rewards for those things done in obedience to Jesus or the lack of reward for things done according to our own broken desires. As a part of that moment, Jesus will tell us, "Well done, good and faithful servant", or not. In light of eternity, we should all ask the question, "Am I living for the day when I'll stand before Jesus?" What needs to change in your life, if not?

Putting it in action

Ask God the question; “Where is my hope in heaven lacking?” Write down what God reveals to you. Ask God; “What will increase my hope for heaven?”

Try this: Do a word study on heaven. Find verses that talk about heaven. Here’s an online resource to get you started; openbible.com.

Discussion Questions

What’s one thing you imagine when you think about heaven?

What area of your life could change in light of eternity?

What can you do this week to increase your hope in heaven?

Go Deeper - Resources to develop a hope in heaven

Books

[Money, Possessions, and Eternity - Randy Alcon](#)

[All things New - John Eldredge](#)

[Heaven - Randy Alcon](#)

Read and Meditate on

[Revelation 21:1-6](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:1-10](#)