

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Heaven Is Important

(Michael Baker)

My wife and I recently drove to Indiana for a wedding. Neither of us had ever been to Indiana before, and we didn't know exactly what to expect. After hearing about the plans for our trip, someone told me it is a truly beautiful state and described all the appeal it had to him. To his credit, it upheld his description. But this occurrence got me thinking. This is very similar to the Christian's situation. We have heard how wonderful and important Heaven is, but we have never been there. I think it would be beneficial to state why exactly heaven is important.

Heaven is important because it is a reward. It is a hard task to pass up on our wants and wishes and submit to God's desires. But there is incentive in following His will. Heaven is a place of rest for the people of God as *Hebrews 4:9* states. Rest is an appealing reward because of the ease and comfort found within it. Heaven is where we find rest if we live unto God. Those who obeyed God's will receive a crown of righteousness as Paul says in *2 Timothy 4:8*. But what reward is there for those who choose not to serve God? A place where there will be the weeping and gnashing of teeth is prepared

for those who fail to obey His will as seen in *Matthew 13:50*.

Heaven is also important because it is eternal. Eternality is a concept that we as humans find hard to fully comprehend. Nothing about our lives here on earth is eternal or everlasting. Everything we're surrounded by is perishable. Those who make it to Heaven are not there only for a season. *1 Thessalonians 4:17* tells us not only will we be in Heaven forever, but we will also always be with God. Heaven is important because God made it to be a realm where He can be with its inhabitants forever.

Who is it that is able to make it to Heaven? We read throughout the Bible of a group called Christians in *Acts 11:26*. This group is made up of individuals who follow Christ's teachings. Heaven is important because it is exclusive. Only Christians who believe in Jesus as the son of God and obey His commands shall have eternal life as seen in *John 3:16*. This concept is also seen in *Hebrews 5:8-9* where we see that only those who obey Jesus' will shall be saved. While many people of the world may claim that there may be multiple routes to make it to Heaven, the

Bible only presents one way and it's through our obedience to Him. Those who live according to their own mind are ineligible to enter Heaven. But hope still remains if you are currently in that group. Even if you live according to your own moral compass, you can repent and make your ways right by obeying how God would have you to live according to *Luke 13:5*.

Heaven is so very important to us today. We are literally deciding right now by our actions where we want to be when our lives come to an end. Heaven is a reward to those who lived righteously. It is beautiful beyond description because God is there. Unlike things of this world, Heaven will last forever along with its inhabitants. Although all have the chance to enter into Heaven, only those who are obedient may enter in. As we are journeying to a land we have never been to or seen before, we can hear a lot of good things about it. But will you be there? Have you been submissive to His will so that you can make it to Heaven one day? Ask yourself these questions with an honest heart, and you will see from the scriptures that only those who obey His will shall be in Heaven with Him one day.