

Series on death and the afterlife – sermon 4 - 21/11/10 (am)

The Place Called Heaven

John 14:1-6

Theme: Jesus will prepare a place for His disciples in Heaven and will take them there.

Many things in life trouble us.

Jesus' disciples were troubled at the
Last Supper.

Jesus commanded them not to be.

Two reasons:

- the Lord is to be trusted (14:1);
- a place would be prepared for them (14:2-3).

For these same reasons no Christian should be troubled by circumstances.

Heaven

Words used for Heaven in the Bible can refer to one of three places:

- atmospheric Heaven (Genesis 7:11);
- planetary Heaven (Genesis 1:14);
- the *special* dwelling-place of God (Matthew 6:9; 2 Corinthians 12:2; John 14:2, 4).

1. Heaven is an actual place.

Science finds this hard to accept.

Heaven is not a state of peace entered into at death.

Heaven is an actual place (John 14:2; 2 Corinthians 5:8).

Jesus is there now in His resurrection body (Acts 1:11).

2. Heaven is only for Christians.

Jesus spoke 14:1-3 to His **disciples**.

(See also Revelation 21:27.)

Heaven is not for everyone!

3. Heaven is a place of inexpressible joy and glory.

Jesus is there (John 14:2-3).

Heaven is a place of:

- breathtaking beauty (Revelation 4:3, 4, 6-7, 5);
- glory (Revelation 4:5, 6-9, 9-11);
- brilliance, perfection (Revelation 21:4-5; 27);
- pleasure, perfect existence (Ps. 16:11).

Descriptive language is stretched to the **limit** (1 Corinthians 2:9).

4. What will Christians do in Heaven?

- see Jesus (14:3; Revelation 22:4)
- rest (Revelation 14:13)
- work, serving the Lord (Matthew 25:21)
- reign (2 Timothy 2:12)
- praise God and rejoice (Revelation 7:9-10)
- grow in knowledge, love, joy of God

Conclusion – Heaven Our Home!

Everything of real value a Christian has
is in Heaven:

our spiritual family;

our name (Luke 10:20);

our inheritance (1 Peter 1:4);

our citizenship (Philippians 3:20).

*Christian, think of your eternal home
often.*

*The reality of what Jesus will bring you
to, and the kind of place it is, will be
soothing balm to any troubled heart.*

*If you are not a Christian you are
trading Heaven for Hell!*

*Accept God's offer of salvation
(14:6)!*