



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God, What About... Series, Lesson 57

Lesson Title: ...Heaven and Hell

Take Home Point: Heaven is life forever with God
– hell is life forever without God.

Warm-Up:

One of Satan's greatest successes in our culture is the common view of heaven and hell. No doubt you have heard jokes about hell not being not too bad – a little warm, perhaps, but you get to have the fun without consequences that are suffered on earth. And then there is his sell job of heaven – it's so boring! All we'll do in heaven is sit on clouds, play harps, not have any fun. And of course, Satan's greater success is convincing people of the belief that heaven and hell don't really exist at all, that a loving God would never send someone to hell the way the Bible says, and that heaven is not a real place. These are subtle, but eternally fatal, errors.

Read: Matthew 13:41-42; John 3:36; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 2 Corinthians 3:12

Observation (What happened?):

What happens to those who do not believe in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ?

How quickly will we be changed from a mortal being to an immortal one?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that the wrath of God remains on those who reject God's Son?

What does it mean that the power of sin is the law?

Insight:

What is your view of hell? Does it follow the view of many, that it will be a place of endless sensual pleasure and parties and doing whatever you want without anyone saying no? That is exactly what Satan wants you to think. But the Bible tells us more. In reality, it is a place of endless burden, pain, sorrow, hatred, wickedness, and loss. It is also a place of endless loneliness. Hell has absolutely no happiness or peace or friendship or love. None. Ever. Because all those things come from God, and God's presence and blessings will be utterly absent. What is your view of heaven? Has your thinking been warped by our culture's shallow parody of clouds and harps and sitting around doing nothing? Or have you been turned off by the idea that all we will do is stand around and sing while God smiles benignly at the adoring crowd? If either of these is true, that's too bad. Heaven is going to be wonderful! Just think what it will be like to never do anything wrong again, never be hurt again, never suffer loss again. What is God's view of heaven? He is preparing it as a special place just for us. Now, if the God of the universe – the perfect Almighty Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer – is doing the preparing, don't you think it will be fantastic?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know you are going to live forever in heaven?

Pray for the children in your small group to accept the truth of God's word and believe in Jesus as the only way to a heaven that really does exist.

Kingdom Quest year 2