**A Day or a Glimpse of Heaven (November 27, 2016, Oak Ridge church of Christ)**

I plan to complete the series I started on “Why we are different, here at the Oak Ridge church of Christ”. But today I finally decided to complete a lesson I have had in mind since Aaron preached his lesson on what a day in Hell would be like. This morning I would like us to take a glimpse into Heaven from God’s Word and consider what a day in Heaven might be like.

* **No more pain or sickness (Revelation 21:1-4)** – Some days we may just feel good to live and breath! Take note of these as they give us a glimpse of Heaven.
* **No more death (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)** – On TV and in the papers, death is a big story. Each of us are touched by death and each time we are we can be reminded of the wonderful blessing it will be to have no more death. Here when we experience life each day, we get a glimpse of Heaven. But in Heaven the life will be perfect, where death is no more!
* **Sincere love (John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-11)** – Many times we find in this life that people like us or love us for insincere reasons. Genuine sincere love is a wonderful blessing. We can experience that with our spouses, true friends, and family and loved ones who are seeking the best for us. In Heaven, all love will be sincere and genuine!
* **No more good byes (Acts 20:36-38, 21:5-6)** – This one really hits home. Those of us who have family and loved ones who live far away, rejoice when we get to see them. And it really hurts to say good bye. When we are blessed to live close to family and loved ones in this life we can be thankful and we get a glimpse of Heaven. No more sad good byes in Heaven.
* **No separations from loved ones (John 17:5, 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:7)** – Jesus understands what separation from loved ones is like. He was separated from the Heavenly Father for over 33 years. We sometimes agonize over being far away from those people who are special to us. Sometimes we wish they were close by, maybe down the street. Where we could simply walk down and sit with them and talk a while. I have many loved ones that I wish I was not separated from. Those who are in prison understand this better than most. Paul relates to this in 1 Thessalonians. In Heaven, we will be with loved ones for eternity!
* **No more stress or anxiety ( 2 Corinthians 11:22-33, John 14:1-4, Philippians 4:6-7) –** So many things in this life tempt us to be stressed and anxious. Having bills to pay, college, jobs, retirement, sickness, raising children, those who are in a lost condition, government that does not support Christian’s values, etc., etc. We who are parents, constantly are tempted to worry or become anxious for the safety of our children. And that feeling never goes away, no matter how old you are. In Heaven there will be no reasons to be stressed or be tempted to be anxious. Because we will be in the presence of God, where our hearts will never be troubled anymore!
* **With the Father and the Lord (Revelation 21:22-22:5)** – The early disciples were with the Lord. We all long to be with the Lord. When we study God’s Word, are involved in a Bible Study, worship together, take of the memorial supper together, we get a glimpse of Heaven. We are close to our Lord. But in Heaven we will be with Him forever! That is hard to imagine but something to really look forward to. Let’s go back to **Revelation 21:3** again.
* **Perfect relationships [James 3:13-18 (especially verse 17)]** – In this life many relationships are imperfect. School mates, work colleagues, neighbors, family relationships, many times are strained or not as close as they could be. Many times this is because we are Christians and many of those we interact with are not. In Heaven our relationships will be perfect. Those really good relationships we enjoy on this earth give us a glimpse of Heaven. There will not be any second guessing or anxiety that comes with many relationships here on earth.
* **Eternal rest (Matthew 11:28-29 (Jeremiah 6:16), Hebrews 4:1-11)** – Real rest is a wonderful blessing and many times does not come as frequently as we would like. Many times life makes us feel like the otters at the Knoxville Zoo. We go and go until we collapse. Then we wake up to go and go again. Once in a while we may enjoy a peaceful and restful day. Maybe on vacation or maybe with a loved one or family member.

Recently on me and Beth’s wedding anniversary, we spent a couple of hours on a farm in Loudoun County, watching a very rare bird that normally lives in the Arctic. This bird had never been seen in the state of Tennessee before. For many of you, spending time watching a bird is not very restful or peaceful. But for me and Beth it was exactly that!

In these moments, we get a glimpse of Heaven. In Heaven we will enjoy the perfect rest that was promised to Joshua and to others.

* **No more Satan and no more temptation (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:10, 21:17)** – The more I live in this world, the more I appreciate being with my family and being with my spiritual family. It makes one very weary living in a world dominated by Satan and full of temptation. In our families and in our spiritual family we have a refuge from all of that. We can see a glimpse of Heaven, where there will never ever be any more Satan or temptations!

If you are a disciple of Christ this morning, but you have not been living as you should. Please think about Heaven. You do not want to risk losing out for eternity. Make things right today. Repent and be determined to do better. Just thinking of one day in Heaven is motivation enough!

If you are not a Christian, Jesus died for you so you could live with Him in Heaven. A place where all the things we have talked about are perfect. Heaven is the Utopia that people try to make this earth to be. This earth is not Utopia, but we get glimpses of what Heaven will be like every day. Jesus wants all to enjoy those blessings for eternity. But to obtain those blessings you need to submit and give your life to Him. It starts by truly believing Him. Being willing to confess that He is the Son of God! Then you must turn from your sins and decide to follow Him in repentance. At baptism your sins are washed away and you start your journey to the perfect place called Heaven.

Please decide to become a disciple of Jesus Christ today, before it is too late!

Please make your wishes known, while we stand and sing.