

## Heaven & Hollywood

### **Text: 1 Cor 2:1-12**

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

### **Introduction:**

This Sunday I'm going to express a 2 part sermon for this morning and Evening concerning the "Reality of Heaven" The Reason I feel this is necessary to teach is that because of the many mindsets that have infiltrated our Christian Heritage.

It is amazing what I hear in the realm of Funerals or Memorials, on TV, People saying good bye to loved ones, yet with such a unbiblical expression. The worst of it is what you hear Christians express in during the loss of loved ones. Mama has wings now, or little Billie is playing baseball all day, the way liked. "Party on!" No Hangovers in heaven. "Build it and they will come"

Where have we learned about heaven, where has society gain such insightful wisdom that they are willing to place their hope in. Heaven! What a concept. A place of Bliss, a place to do what you weren't able to do here on earth. The ultimate reward for all your unexplored passions.

I believe that much of our society's theology on heaven is preached from the pulpit of Hollywood. And unfortunately many Christians have said Amen to their ideology and have ignorantly expressed these views at memorials and funerals. – Thank God for the children...

## **Point One: Hollywood's Heaven (Holywood)**

These are expressions of the afterlife, and this is what through the years has compromised the beauty of what True heaven is really like.

*My confession after the Drama this week, was that we tried our best to portray what it would be like when we stand before God as a Child of God. But of course with all of Hollywood's technology and special effects are we able to come close.*

*9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

There are several movies out there that have preached or downplayed the heaven, and I want to look into a few.

**1). Heaven Can wait** – Joe Pendleton is a quarterback preparing to lead his team to the superbowl when he is almost killed in an accident. **An overanxious angel plucks him to heaven only to discover that he wasn't ready to die, and that his body has been cremated.** A new body must be found, and that of a recently murdered millionaire is chosen. His wife and accountant, the murderers, are confused by this development, as he buys the L.A. Rams in order to once again quarterback them into the Superbowl.

**Point is...** Heaven makes mistakes and Earth is a better place than heaven.

**2). The Preachers Wife** – About a small Baptist church that needed help and god sent an angel to help, in which the angel begins to fall in love with the preachers wife.

One time it shows the angel eating a slice of pizza off the street like a man arriving from the desert from an experience of thirst.

**Point is...** That this man who turned into an angel has been neglected the better things while in heaven and Earth is better than heaven.

3). We see countless commercials of people bored in Heaven, no action, just a puffy cloud, and a harp playing the same old tune. – Point is.. Earth is better than heaven.

*9 But as it is written:*

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,*

*Nor have entered into the heart of man*

*The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

**Movie Shots –**

## 1). **Good On earth –**

How Hollywood downplays heaven, and that it makes mistakes and the victim is more concerned about fulfilling their life on earth rather than entering heaven

### **What dreams are made of...**

There is a heaven for you, your own special tailored customized heaven, adored his wife's picture, trying to grasp heaven with a carnal mind – Heaven is a state of Mind...

Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard....

In all these examples it is very clear that God is very distant... Jesus said that where I go you shall be with me.

John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and **prepare a place for you**, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

### ***Part Two -***

***Heaven is a real place, and heaven is for those who think about it.***

### **Review –**

Thoughts from Part One:

The mindset of heaven in the world has crept into our Christian Heritage.

Heaven is not to be a doctrinal acknowledgement but a reality

Heaven is a real place, not a state of mind. Heaven is a real place that is not to our design "But He has gone and prepared" a place for us.

The Christians struggle and frustration is their attempt to have what they feel heaven should be now.

The World says that being on earth is better than being in Heaven.

In the worlds view heaven is a place that you still have to work in order to stay there and God is no where to be found. Our Father is intimate.

The myth that we are all going to be humble heavenly angels sitting on clouds.

Heaven is not a reward but an eternal natural destination of a child of God

## **1). What and where is Heaven?**

The What - Heaven is an actual place, it is the dwelling place of God.

### **Isa 66:1**

**"Heaven is My throne,** And earth is My footstool.

Where is the house that you will build Me?

And where is the place of My rest?

### **1 Kings 8:27**

27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of **heavens cannot contain You.** How much less this temple which I have built!

### **Matt 23:21-22**

21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

## **Where...is Heaven – Above?**

### **Gen 28:12**

12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

### **Gen 28:16-17**

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely **the LORD is in this place,** and I did not know it." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none **other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"**

**Ps 11:4**

The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

**It's above the earth... It is not another in a veiled atmosphere.**

**Rev 12:7-9**

And war broke **out in heaven**: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for **them in heaven any longer**.

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

*Jesus refers to this place...*

**Luke 10:18** And He said to them, "I saw **Satan fall like lightning from heaven** .

**Isa 14:12**

"How you **are fallen from heaven**, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

**Paul's Account –**

**2 Cor 12:2-4**

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago -- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows -- such a one was **caught up to the third heaven**. 3 And I know such a man -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

**Different Levels of Heaven? No there are 3 heavens that are mentioned In the scriptures...In the Koran the Muslum teachings, they believe in 7 in which they pick this up from Jewish writings and belief.**

But when you look at them, they break only into 3 categories.

**The first is the atmosphere**, what appears to be intended by raqiya` (OT:7549), the firmament or expansion, Gen 1:6.

**The second, the starry heaven**; where are the sun, moon, planets, and stars; but these two are often expressed under the one term shamayim (OT:8064), the two heavens, or expansions, and in Gen 1:17, they appear to be both expressed by raqiya` (OT:7549) hashamayim (OT:8064), the firmament of heaven.

**And, thirdly, the place of the blessed**, or the throne of the divine glory, probably expressed by the words shemeey hashamayim, the heavens of heavens. But on these subjects the Scripture affords us but little light; and on this distinction the reader is not desired to rely.

### 3). Heaven is our Hope -

2 Cor 4:7-18

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed -- 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you. 13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, 14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. 16 **Seeing the Invisible** Therefore **we do not lose heart**. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. **17 For our light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

*Here is how the early church was encouraged to go on... To see the invisible to and with such vision, our present affliction is labeled as "Light" affliction.*

Amistade – The Movie – Finding Hope through a pictorial bible – "Picturing Heaven"

Having a heart for Heaven is the ability to see the unseen, to see into the Eternal, and not with the eyes of the natural but with the vision of the Spiritual. What a privilege!

Eph 2:4-6

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

Col 3:1-2

If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

**Who we are?**

Phil 3:18-21

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

### **Heaven a description...**

Rev 21:21-27

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

New Jerusalem 1500 square miles up and around

22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.