

A Theology of Heaven

Part Eleven: "Living in Light of Heaven"

Heaven's Practical Affect

- Heaven as real, tangible, eternal compensation
 - what you lack now, will be yours in abundance
 - what you sacrifice now for the sake of the kingdom, will be repaid one-hundred fold

Luke 6:20-23

"...Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and cast insults at you, and spurn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

Be glad in that day, and leap for joy, for behold your reward is great in heaven..."

Luke 14:12-14

"...When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they invite you in return, and repayment come to you.

But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Matthew 19:27-29

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "...And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life."

Matthew 6:19-20

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

The Treasure Principle

"You can't take it with you – but you can send it on ahead"

Heaven's Practical Affect

➤ Heaven as real, tangible, eternal compensation

1. Frees us to give generously, cheerfully and sacrificially

"Sell your possessions and give to charity; make for yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys." (Luke 12:33)

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2. Frees us from greed, materialism and the need for instant gratification

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3. Frees us to serve sacrificially and cheerfully

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4. Frees us to show radical, risk-taking love

"For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have a better possession and an abiding one." (Hebrews 10:34)

Heaven's Practical Affect

➤ Heaven as real, tangible, eternal compensation

5. Frees us to rejoice in the midst of tribulation and suffering

"For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison." (2 Corinthians 4:17)