

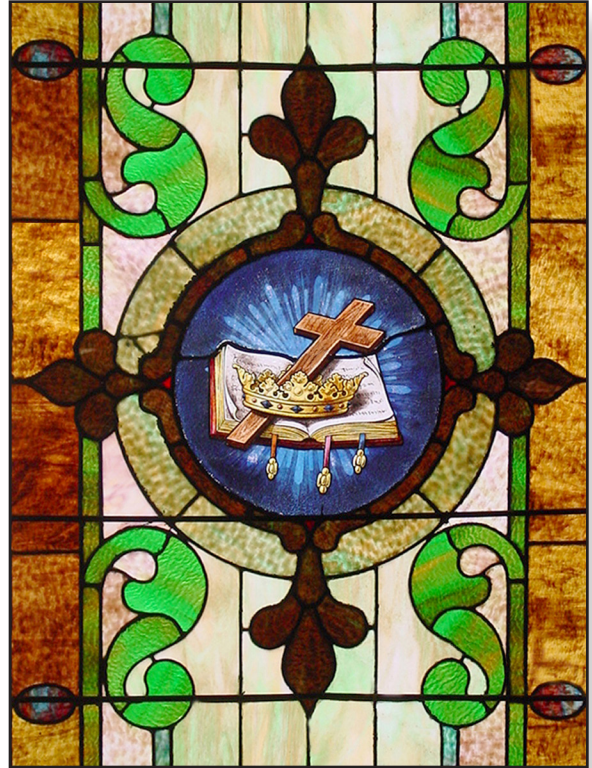
Heaven

John 14:1-3

Jesus Prepares Heaven for Us

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”

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



Matthew 13:44-46

The Hidden Treasure

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

The Pearl of Great Price

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

I will come again and will take you to Myself,
that where I am you may be also. John 14:3

Luke 15:3-7

The Lost Sheep

He told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?

5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’

7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Luke 15:8-10

The Lost Coin

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

A Closer Look: Heaven

We long for Heaven. There will be no more suffering or pain. Our greatest joy, however, will be to spend eternity in God's presence. Jesus promised the gift of eternal life to those that believe on His name.

1. At His ascension, the disciples were distressed that Jesus would leave them. Imagine, they spent three years in the presence of the Son of God!
 - a. What does Jesus promise the disciples and us? ~ *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” John 14:1-2*
 - b. What does this verse tell about our relationship to God? ~ *“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” John 14:18-20*
 - c. At Jesus ascension, two men in white comforted the disciples with these words. How do you think this changed the disciples thinking about Jesus departure from earth? ~ *“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11*
2. It is not a sin to be scared to die or to grieve the loss of a loved one. There is a vast difference between grief and hopelessness. What does Paul say about our concerns? ~ *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14*

3. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, what is our inheritance?

~ *(I Pray) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might 20 that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:17-21*

- a. How did Christ purchase this inheritance?
- b. How did Christ show His power over death on our behalf?
- c. God is in control, even in our times of deep distress and pain. What do these verses say about God and His power?
- d. How long will He reign?

4. There are not enough words in any language to describe Heaven's splendor. John tells of his visions of Heaven in the book of Revelation. He tells that for all eternity we will be praising God. What will we be saying? When will the praise end? ~ ... *And day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" 11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created." Revelation 4:8b,11*