

"As It Is In Heaven"

Series: *Final Destination*

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Note Matthew 7:13-14

The _____ we choose in this life determines our final destination when this life ends.

Our society has an interesting relationship with the _____ of heaven. Large majorities (_____%-_____%) believe in some kind of heaven, and most Americans think they're going to heaven, even if they're not sure how a person gets to go to heaven.

Our interest in talking about heaven has gone up and down like a _____ the past 30-40 years...earlier this year for the first time ever there were _____ books in the NY Times bestseller list about heaven.

Our fluctuating attitudes about heaven are interesting when you realize if we're fully -devoted followers of Jesus, we will spend _____% of our existence in heaven...it is strange that in many ways we seem to ignore heaven and _____ as if it really doesn't matter that much.

Even if we believe in heaven's existence and that our final destination is heaven, we don't think about it very often because we don't have a _____ grasp on exactly what heaven is.

1. Why Are We Am _____ About Heaven?

- A. Because of our p_____ - despite the Great Recession...we now have in this life what previous generations only _____ of in anticipation of heaven...our earthly treasures cause us to _____ or lose sight of heavenly, eternal treasures.
- B. Because of how we navigate the reality of _____ - the Bible tells us it is inevitable (*note Hebrews 9:27*), but never describes it as " _____ " (*note I Corinthians 15:26*).
- C. Because Biblical and older images of heaven have lost their _____ (*note Revelation 21*)

(continued on reverse)

2. Why Heaven _____

Note Revelation 21:1-2

The I _____ of heaven is not the most important thing.

The best thing about heaven isn't where we are, but w _____ we're w _____
(*note Revelation 21:3*). Heaven matters:

- A. Because it helps us see c _____ salvation—the Bible teaches we *have been saved* (_____ work); we're *being saved* (present work); and we *will be saved* (future work). *Note Colossians 2:13-15; Galatians 5:17*. We'll receive the _____ benefits of salvation in heaven (*note Revelation 21:4*). When we experience peace through Jesus' forgiveness...these are all "free samples" of heaven, _____ of eternity.
- B. Because it gives _____ now (*note John 14:1-3*) - if you have a _____ relationship with Jesus, then heaven is your final destination. *Note Philippians 3:20-21*.

Your Final Destination:

- Are you _____ of your final destination?
- Do you have questions like Jesus' disciple Thomas had (*note John 14:4-5*)?
- There's an answer for you, too (*note John 14:6*).
- You can *know* that heaven will be your final destination by receiving Jesus as your Leader and Forgiver.

Use the connect card to tell us about a commitment you made today, and tell someone you know or a Pastor or Staff person at Riverside about the spiritual commitment you have made today!