

Sis Sparks

ALL THIS AND HEAVEN TOO

Scripture:

Hebrews 12:22-24

Ephesians 2:12

Introduction

I am persuaded that the Christian life is the best life possible here on this earth. God gives us love, joy, peace—all the good things of life. And with it comes the security of knowing that our lives are charted and guided by God Himself.

We live secure in the promise that, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Psalm 91:1

There is the joy of communion with God: the peace from having everything covered by the blood of Christ. There are benefits of being a Christian.

I. Benefits of being a Christian

A. Freedom from fear of Hell

1. Hell is a place of reality

a. Burning, sulphurous fire

b. A place of torment—Rich man (Luke 16)

And in hell he lift up his eyes being in torments....

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue: For I am tormented in this flame

Luke 16:23-24

1. Indescribable anguish

2. No relief

c. A place of no escape

2. Christian need not fear hell

a. Redeemed by blood of Jesus

b. Sin covered by the blood

THERE IS ENOUGH
HELL ON EARTH

I. Benefits of being a Christian

B. Freedom from fear of death

1. Death not the scythe carrying skeletal monster of the cartoonist
2. Death a door which transcends dimensions
 - a. From the finite to the infinite
 - b. From the mortal to the immortal
3. Death merely places us in Christ's presence

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:8

C. Divine provision for the Christian

1. Supplying all our needs

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

2. Refuge in trouble

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee.

Deuteronomy 33:27

3. Life insurance

a. Eternal life

b. Healing clause— Edwin Dace

Men have spent lifetimes searching for a utopia. Ponce de Leon searched futilely for the "Fountain of Youth": Coronado searched the Southwest over looking for the fabled "Seven Cities of Gold". Christians need not seek for a utopia, for God has provided all this and heaven too.

II. Heaven too

D. Heaven is a place of perfect fellowship

3. There will be no strangers

Now I know in part; but then I
shall know even as also I am known.

II Corinthians 13:12

E. Heaven is home

1. God will be there

2. Jesus will be there

3. The Holy Spirit will be there

III. No aliens

That at that time ye were without Christ ^{GEN 12:1}
from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers
from the covenants of promise, having no hope....

Ephesians 2:12

A. No one there not saved by Jesus Christ

1. Good works will not avail

Many will say to me in that day,
Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in
thy name? and in thy name have cast
out devils? and in thy name done many
wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them,
I never knew you: depart from me, ye
that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:22-23

2. God has no grandchildren

a. Experience must be personal

b. Experience must be your own

B. Naturalization papers issued only in this
life

II. Heaven too

A. Heaven is a real place

1. Not a figment of imagination
2. A place to be desired
- Many Christians don't look forward to heaven like they once did
 - Heaven will be worth everything

B. Heaven is a perfect place

- Earth is imperfect
 - Too hot or too cold
 - Too humid or too dry
 - Sandstorms, tornados, earthquakes
- Death, tears, sorrow, pain all absent
And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4

C. Heaven is a beautiful place

- Designed and built by God himself
- Its design
 - Walls of Jasper
 - Gates of one solid pearl
 - Streets of purest gold
- Building materials
 - Gold
 - All manner of precious stones
- Room for everybody
 - Dimensions--12,000 furlongs cubed
 - Capacity--3 billion, 375 million cubic miles
- Illuminated by Jesus Christ

D. Heaven is a place of perfect fellowship

- Everyone will be a friend
- No dissension--perfect harmony

SEE EDA 1:11-12

12 FOUNDATIONS
OF PRECIOUS STONES