

John 14: Our Heavenly Reward

08-07-16 PM

In John 14 Jesus tells His disciples that He is about to leave. He will be going to heaven to prepare a place for them. Then He will return and bring them to it. This is one of the clearest descriptions in the Bible of the promise of our heavenly reward. It tells us that before Jesus, no one was in heaven (John 1:18), and that until His return, no one is in heaven (1 John 4:12). It tells us that this dwelling will be with God Himself.

Our heavenly hope (Colossians 1:5) is called various things in the Scriptures. It is referred to as a reward (e.g. 2 John 8). Most often it is called Eternal life (e.g. Titus 1:2). It is also called an inheritance (e.g. 1 Peter 1:4). Sometimes it is described as a restoration (e.g. Act 3:21). It is interesting that many times it is combinations of these terms. But ultimately, there is not a great deal of description given of what that reward is actually like.

Heaven is described as indescribable in 2 Corinthians 12:1-4. There Paul says that he was brought either in vision or in body to heaven, but cannot describe it.

Heaven will be where our bodies are changed from their current corruptible state to an incorruptible one (Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58). Thus many of our current sufferings in the flesh and mind will be removed.

Heaven will not contain worldliness (1 John 2:15-17). Even the Garden of Eden contained worldliness in the form of the tree of knowledge. In Revelation 22, there is no description of that tree. Thus, we will not need to worry about sinning.

Heaven will not contain the consequences of sin (Revelation 21:1-8). So much of our sorrow in this life is because of the consequences of sin. Yet those consequences will be removed in our eternal home.

Heaven will be dwelling in an oneness with God (John 17:21-23, Revelation 22:1-5). Jesus says that His purpose was to make us one with Him and the Father as He and the Father were one. We cannot comprehend the full meaning of this point, but it will be glorious.

We ought to be excited when we contemplate our eternal home. Christianity is not about here, it is about there. This world is not our home, that one is. Therefore, our actions and deeds ought to reflect our hope in that home.