



For your encouragement...  
Thoughts on Heaven

*"Life on earth is the preface to the book, the warm-up to the concert!  
Heaven is the main event!"*

**(Randy Alcorn)**

*"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, **set your sights on the realities of heaven**, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.**"*

**(Colossians 3:1-2 NLT)**

*"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... It is because Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one."*

**(C. S. Lewis)**

*"We are to view the present in light of the future; we are to see time in light of eternity; we are to look beyond sacrifice to reward; we are to bear the cross in anticipation of the crown."*

**(Randy Alcorn)**

*"For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really **enemies of the cross of Christ**. Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and **all they think about is this life here on earth**. **But we are citizens of heaven**, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are **eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior**. He will take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into **glorious bodies** like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere."*

**(Philippians 3:18-21 NLT)**

*"Let temporal things serve your use, but the eternal be the object of your desire."*

**(Thomas à Kempis)**

*"For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time** are not worth comparing with **the glory that is to be revealed to us**."*

**(Romans 8:18)**

*"When a Christian realizes **his citizenship is in heaven**, he begins acting as **a responsible citizen of earth**. He invests wisely in **relationships** because he knows they're eternal. His **conversations, goals, and motives** become pure and honest because he realizes these will have a bearing on everlasting reward. He **gives generously of time, money, and talent** because he's laying up treasures for eternity. He helps **spread the good news of Christ** because he longs to fill heaven's ranks with his friends and neighbors."*

**(Joni Eareckson Tada)**

*"Joy is the serious business of heaven....In heaven, we will be strong, radiant, wise, beautiful and drenched in joy!"*

**(C. S. Lewis)**

*"And if our hope in Christ is **only for this life**, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world."*

**(1 Corinthians 15:19 NLT)**

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus; look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim; in the light of his glory and grace."*

**- Lyrics to "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"**

*"For he [Abraham] was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God...having acknowledged that they were*

*strangers and exiles on the earth...But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one."*

**(Hebrews 11:10, 13b, 16a)**

*"Heaven is our real home. Home is acceptance, security, rest, refuge, deep personal relationships, great memories. Home is where your treasure is. If heaven is your home, then your mind and heart and treasure will be there also."*

**(Randy Alcorn)**

*"You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions [in heaven]!"*

**(Hebrews 10:34 NIV)**

*"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

**(Psalm 16:11)**

*"Out of all the eternal ages of our existence as God's children, **these tiny years here on earth have a destiny that can never be repeated.** The Bible tells us that in the stench of a sick and rotting world we are perfume bottles for the fragrance of Christ (2 Corinthians 2:15). In the gathering darkness we shine as stars (Philippians 2:15). **If only we could grasp the awesome implications of these few years!**"*

**(David Needham, from his book Birthright)**

*"This life is not forever, nor is it the best life that will ever be. The fact is that believers are headed for heaven. It is reality. **And what we do here on earth has a direct bearing on how we will live there.** Heaven may be as near as next year, or next week; so it makes good sense to spend some time here on earth thinking candid thoughts about that marvelous future reserved for us."*

**(Joni Eareckson Tada)**

*"An elderly missionary couple arrived at their home port after years of faithful service. At the dock, an ambassador and his wife who had returned on the ship with them were surrounded by a crowd. Roses were bestowed on his wife as photographers' flashes exploded, and an attentive, admiring press and public hung on every word as he spoke of the joy of serving his government and coming home. As the missionary*

*couple walked unnoticed through that crowd, the wife, with hot tears streaking down her face, wondered out loud to her husband, "Why is it that we have given our whole lives to Christ and yet there is no one here to honor us and welcome us home?" Her understanding husband, reaching beyond that lonely moment, said to her, "Honey, we're not home yet."*

*"When we live our lives as if this world is all that we have, life is very disappointing and even despairing. When we live our lives as if this world is all there is, questions have few answers and crisis becomes all-consuming. This present world only makes sense when we live here in light of there!"*

**(Joseph Stowell)**

*"I [the Apostle Paul] am hard pressed between the two: My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. but to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account."*

**(Philippians 1:23-24)**

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."*

**(Revelation 21:1, 3-5a)**

**Revelation 14:13** says in heaven "...we will rest from our labors".

Scripture says in **Ecclesiastes 3:11** that "God has set eternity in the hearts of men." God has placed within our hearts as humans the awareness of eternity...the internal awareness that there is something beyond this life. We are to see and interpret all of life through the grid of eternity. We are to live here in light of there!

*\*All Scripture quotations are taken from The **English Standard Version Bible (ESV)** unless otherwise noted*



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