

Growth Assignment

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Is God Good? Heaven – Part 2

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (I don't lack anything)

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

³ *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

⁴ *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, My cup overflows.*

⁶ ***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*** **Psalm 23: 1 – 6 (ESV)**

Living in the goodness of God includes recognizing that heaven is God's eternal goodness to you. What is heaven? Heaven is: (1) a physical place not a state of being, (2) a permanent place that'll last forever, and (3) a reserved place for only God's family. What will we do in heaven? In heaven, we will be reunited with those who love Jesus; we will be rewarded for our faith, hope & love; and we will be assigned work that we enjoy doing. How should I live on earth if I'm going to heaven? I should: (1) Remember my time here is temporary, (2) Recognize what's going to last and what won't last, (3) Reject the world's values and priorities, (4) Resist being detoured by temporary temptations, (5) Refuse to be discouraged by trouble, (6) Reach out to bring others to heaven too, and (7) Remind myself daily that heaven is waiting.

Colossians 3: 24 (NLT)

Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

1. God has prepared the eternal goodness of heaven for us. Colossians 3:24 above says that we will receive an inheritance from the Lord. What does "inheritance" mean to you? Read 1 Peter 1:4 in the Bible. What does God's eternal inheritance look like?

Matthew 25: 21 (NLT)

"The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!"

2. The verse above includes the promise that God has already prepared the kingdom for us as the inheritance we will receive on that final day. According to Hebrew 10:35 and John 12:26, what should we do to receive that inheritance? In which area do you still have some challenges that keep you from receiving this inheritance? Put it on your prayer list and let God guide you as to how to move away from these blocks.

1 John 2: 17 (NLT)

...this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

How does this verse impact your thoughts about what really matters in your life? Does this verse affect our priorities?