

*The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 7 June 2026. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.*

## **The Quality of Life in Heaven**

A few weeks ago, in the second message of this “Heaven” series, I mentioned the book *Pilgrim’s Progress*, by John Bunyan. As you may remember, *Pilgrim’s Progress* is an allegory of the Christian life. The main character in the book is a man named *Pilgrim*, who leaves his hometown of the City of Destruction, and travels to a hill called Calvary, where a great burden (representing the guilt of sin) falls off his back. The rest of the book is about all the joys and trials that Pilgrim (whose new name is “Christian”) encounters as he travels on the path to the Celestial City (which represents Heaven).

Now, in the early part of the book, Pilgrim had just left the City of Destruction, and had begun to travel toward the Wicket Gate—where, he was told, he would receive complete instructions as to how to have his burden removed. At this point, Pilgrim represents a man who is lost, but whose eyes are slowly being opened by the Word of God. Now, as Pilgrim was travelling along, a couple old friends named **Obstinate** and **Pliable** caught up with him, and tried to dissuade him from going to the Celestial City. **Obstinate** tried to bully and intimidate him into turning back; but Pilgrim wouldn’t give in. Obstinate eventually stormed away in anger; but Pliable was “pliable” enough to listen to what Pilgrim had to say. In fact, he decided that he wanted to go to the Celestial City, too; and so, he joined Pilgrim in his journey.

Now, as they travelled along, Pliable asked Pilgrim what the Celestial City is like. Pilgrim told Pliable that in the Celestial City “There is an endless kingdom to be inhabited, and everlasting life to be given us, that we may inhabit that kingdom for ever.” To this, Pliable replied, “Well said; and what else?” And so, Pilgrim said, “There are crowns and glory to be given us, and garments that will make us shine like the sun in the firmament of heaven.” Pliable was now fascinated; and he asked for yet more information. Pilgrim said, “There shall be no more crying, nor Sorrow: for He that is owner of the place will wipe all tears from our eyes... There we shall be with seraphims and cherubims, creatures that will dazzle your eyes to look on them. There also you shall meet with thousands, and ten thousands, that have gone before us to that place; none of them are hurtful, but loving and holy; every one walking in the sight of God, and standing in his presence with acceptance for ever. In a word, there we shall see the elders with their golden crowns, there we shall see the holy virgins with their golden harps, there we shall see men that by the world were cut in pieces, burnt in flames, eaten of beasts, drowned in the seas, for the love that they bare to the Lord of the place—all well, and clothed with immortality, as with a garment.” Christian then added that “The Lord, the Governor of the country, hath recorded that in this book; the substance of which is, **If we be truly willing to have it**, he will bestow it upon us freely.”

Before the end of this message, you will find out whether Pliable was “truly willing” to have Heaven. For now, though, I’d like to talk about the wonderful descriptions of Heaven that Pilgrim gave to Pliable. All these descriptions come straight from the Scriptures; and they describe a life of joy and peace that is beyond our comprehension. The title of this morning’s message is *The Quality of Life in Heaven*.

**Read Revelation 21:3-7.**

### **I. The banishment of tears in Heaven**

For 1,900 years, **Revelation 21:3-7** has been a source of comfort to countless believers—especially as they are approaching the end of their journey on earth. No matter what a Christian may suffer in this life, he (or she) has the sure hope of entering the presence of the Lord at the moment of death. The Bible says that “**To be absent from the body**” is to “**present with the Lord.**” The thing that makes Heaven “Heaven” is the fact that in Heaven, God’s people are in the presence of *the Lord* forever; and since God is *holy*, there can therefore be no trace of sin in His dwelling place. **Isaiah 57:15** says, “**For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**” Death and pain were the result of man’s fall into sin; therefore, death and pain cannot exist in Heaven, in the place where there is no sin.

What about *tears*, then? Will there be *tears* in Heaven? After all, God did design our eyes to produce different kinds of tears; and *tears of joy* are among them. Whether *tears of joy* will exist in Heaven we can’t say for sure, since the Bible doesn’t speak of them. One thing is certain, though: *tears of sorrow* will *not* continue in Heaven.

Now, perhaps you’re wondering why I said that tears of sorrow won’t “*continue*” in Heaven. Am I saying that there *will* be tears in Heaven for a season? Yes. You see, there is some business that will need to be taken care of after we arrive in Heaven; and that business is **the Judgment Seat of Christ**. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, many tears *will* be shed.

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-17.**

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:10-11.**

Christian, there is coming a time, just after the Rapture, when you and I, and all the saints of this church age, will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ; and there *will* be tears of fear and sorrow at this judgment. All our works (both good *and* bad) will be laid bare, for all to see; and when our Master looks us in the eyes and says, “*Why? Why didn’t you do what I commanded you, when you knew my will? Why did you choose to satisfy your flesh?*”, we will have to give an answer. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will be shown the rewards that we have *lost* on account of our sinful choices here on earth; and this loss will *not* be merely for a season. It won’t be for a hundred years, or a thousand years, or a million years, or a billion years; it will be for *all eternity*. There will never be a second chance to receive the rewards that you forfeited. Trillions of years from now, you *still* will not have the positions of kingly service that you *could* have had if you had served the Lord faithfully here on earth.

Now, I want to be crystal-clear: believers’ sins will *not be held against them* at the Judgment Seat. The thing that will be determined are the *rewards* for our *service to Christ*. If you be saved, God declared you to be “**righteous**” at the moment you repented and believed on His Son. Christ’s perfect righteousness was stamped on your account, so that God could accept you; and nothing will ever change your righteous standing. Judicially, you are no longer under condemnation; and the possibility of Hell is no longer in your future. **Romans 5:1** says, “**Therefore being justified** (declared righteous) **by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**” **Romans 8:1** says, “**There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.**” Christ, the righteous Judge, sees you as though you had no sin; and He keeps your soul eternally, through the redeeming power of His own blood. If you were *not* kept eternally by Christ’s redeeming blood, he couldn’t stay saved for even one day!

Yet, even though believers' sins won't be held against them judicially, believers *will*, nonetheless, have to give an answer for everything they did in this life, whether good or bad. The things that believers did in the flesh will be like **“wood, hay, and stubble,”** which will **“be burned”** (or “forfeited”). Believers will receive eternal reward for the things that they genuinely did for the Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit; but for those things that they did in the flesh, they will suffer loss of reward. By the way, lest you think that it *won't be such a big deal* to forfeit some crowns, since, after all, you'll still go to Heaven (“And besides, I don't want to bring glory to myself, anyway”)...then you don't understand the purpose of rewards! Believers' rewards won't be for the purpose of bringing glory to self *at all*: they'll be for the purpose of *giving glory back to Christ*. This means that if you have no crowns to cast back at Christ's feet, to give Him the glory for what He did in your life, then you *will* be filled with shame. There will even be grief on the part of other believers in your life, who tried to urge you to serve the Lord. **Hebrews 13:17** says, **“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”** As your pastor, I don't want to be grieving for you at the Judgment Seat because you failed to heed God's Word. (I'll have enough tears on account of my *own* sin; so please don't cause me *more* tears!)

Without question, there will be weeping and tears when we realise how little reward we have to cast back at our Saviour's feet. By the way, there will be *fear*, too. Paul said, **“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”** Thank God, we can't lose our salvation: but it *will* be a fearful thing to stand before our Master, and give an account. Christ Himself, as He sits on His throne in Heaven, is grieved by our sin and failure; and if *He* be grieved, how much more will *we* be grieved when we finally see our faithlessness for what it really was?

Now, maybe you're starting to feel a little “down.” Maybe you're thinking, “Pastor, you keep talking about tears in Heaven. Is it really going to be this way?” Yes, it will—*at first*. There is good news, though. The good news is that our tears will not continue. There *will* be tears at the Judgment Seat; but the Lord promises that He will **“wipe away all tears”** from our eyes. Now, please don't misunderstand: God will wipe away our *tears*; but He will *not* wipe away our *memory of sin*. Many Christians have the notion that in order for us to be happy in Heaven, God will have to erase the very *memory* of our sin (and of all the bad things resulting from sin). Brethren, this is not the case. If God *were* to erase the memory of our sin, we wouldn't remember why we needed to be saved in the first place. We wouldn't remember that we were once lost sinners in need of a Saviour. In fact, we wouldn't have much memory of *anything* that happened on earth, since our entire lives are encompassed by sin, and the effects of sin (such as pain, disease, and death). If God wiped away the memory of your sin, you wouldn't even remember what you are—because what you *are* is a “*sinner saved by grace*.”

Christian, you won't be walking around Heaven with amnesia! You *will* remember your past here on earth. “But Pastor, if that be so, how would I ever enjoy Heaven? How would I ever have any quality of life, if I can recall all the sins that I did on earth?” That's a good question: but the answer is simple. In fact, the Lord has already *told us* the answer. He promises that **He will wipe away all tears from our eyes**. Crushing guilt and sorrow will be removed from our minds, as we rest eternally in the wonder of our salvation. There will also be no tears on account of **physical pain**, or **sickness**, or **hunger**, or **poverty**, or **mental hurt**, or **trauma**, or **persecution** from the enemies of God. *None* of these painful things will exist. There will be no *fear* on account of people who are distressing us, mocking us, or trying to hurt us. There will be *no fear of death*, because there will be no death. There will be no fear, crying, pain, or tears, ever again. Yet, in order for God to wipe away all tears from our eyes, it will require a change so profound, that we can scarcely comprehend it. It will require a *completely different way of thinking*—a completely new mind. This brings me to our second point.

## II. The brand-new mind in Heaven

### Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.

At the moment when a sinner believes on Christ, and is saved, a wonderful thing happens: that person is given the *“mind of Christ.”* This means that the Spirit of God has now come to live inside the sinner, and has given him a new nature; and with this new nature, the Christian is now able to see things the way Christ sees them. As long as Christians are submitting to the Spirit of God, they are able to think the way the Lord thinks. How much more, then, will believers be able to see things with *perfect* clarity in Heaven? As long as we are still in this mortal body, we have our sin nature to deal with; and whenever we yield to the old nature, we are *not* thinking with the mind of Christ. But in Heaven, we will think *completely* like Christ all the time, because we will have no sin nature, and no wrong thoughts to cast down.

This is probably one of the hardest things to grasp about Heaven—the fact that believers will think in a completely different way from the way they thought on earth. Not only will we have no *sinful* thoughts, but we will be oriented in a completely new way. For instance, Jesus made it clear that there will be no marrying, nor giving in marriage, in Heaven.

### Read Matthew 22:23-33.

Contrary to the teaching of some false religions (such as Islam and Mormonism), there will be no sex, or bearing of “spirit children,” in Heaven. Jesus clearly said that *“In the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”* By the way, we will not *become* angels when we get to Heaven. (This is another false notion that many people have either heard at a funeral, or have picked up from a Hallmark sympathy card.) We will not *become* angels, folks; and we won’t be disembodied spirits for all eternity, either. On the Resurrection Day, believers will receive new, sinless, immortal *bodies*; and flesh-and-bone bodies are *not* something that angels possess. For all eternity, we will continue to be *men and women*, and *not* angels. Yet, believers will be *“like”* angels, in that they will never marry again, nor inwardly desire to do so. God’s angels do not procreate; and in Heaven, the human race does not procreate, either. Marriage truly is “till death do us part.” It is for *this* world. Earthly marriage unions will not continue in Heaven; nor will there be any new ones formed. Believers won’t be sitting around sad and depressed, and longing to be married, because our minds won’t be wired that way anymore. For 6,000 years now, marriage has served its purpose: and that purpose is to produce a *“godly seed”* (children who grow up to love and serve God). However, when God wraps up the history of this fallen, sinful world, it will no longer be His will to create more souls. Procreation and marriage will be done.

Now, how *else* will believers in Heaven think? Well, this one is even harder to imagine: but in Heaven, believers will not *grieve and mourn over loved ones* who rejected the Lord, and who are in Hell. Now, many Christians struggle with this. Many Christians find it hard to understand how they could ever fully enjoy Heaven while friends and family, whom they loved on earth, are suffering in the Lake of Fire. How could they bear that eternal parting and separation? Again, the answer is: we will think the way the Lord thinks, in every way. In fact, the Bible clearly indicates that believers will, from time to time, be able to *peer across the gulf*, and see lost souls suffering in the Lake of Fire. Yet, they will not be overcome with grief, because they will realise that God’s judgment against unrepentant sinners is just and right.

### Read Isaiah 66:22-24.

Isaiah couldn't be clearer: the inhabitants of the new earth will ***“go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed”*** against God; and they will see them suffering in the place where the ***“fire”*** is never ***“quenched.”*** This is exactly what Jesus said in the account of the rich man and Lazarus, in **Luke 16**. Jesus told of a rich man who died and went to Hell; and from his place of fiery torment, he was able to see across some kind of great gulf, into Paradise. Not only that, but he was able to converse with his righteous ancestor, Abraham, and plead with him to send Lazarus (a believer whom the rich man had known on earth) to *go back* to earth, to warn his five brothers not to end up in Hell. Clearly, departed saints *in Jesus' time* were able to see unbelievers across the gulf, in Hell; and the same will be true in the future. Perhaps you're thinking, “Pastor, why would God allow believers in Heaven to see into Hell? Why would He allow us to see relatives and friends, and many others, suffering in torment?” There is only one reason that God would allow this: and that is to *remind* us of the wrath from which He has saved us! We will not *rejoice* to see lost people suffering; but at the same time, we will not mourn, and wail, and be beside ourselves, either. Why? Because we will think *completely* with the mind of our Saviour. We will think with the mind of *heavenly* citizens, and not earthly citizens.

You see, heavenly-mindedness *changes* you! Even here on earth, heavenly-mindedness changes you! Thinking with Christ's mind *changes* you! A believer cannot be in the presence of the Lord, and remain the same. This reminds me of a story that I once heard from a co-worker years ago. My co-worker was, as far as I can tell, a Christian; but he was not grounded in sound doctrine, and he was prone to believe everything that he heard on the God Channel. One of the stories he told me was of an experience that a big-named televangelist hero of his named Roberts Liardon had had years before. You see, back at the eighties, Liardon was suddenly catapulted into fame when he told a big tale about himself. He claimed that in 1973, when he was an eight-year-old child, he had visited Heaven. In this visit, he saw the most bizarre sights. He saw a warehouse which was full of body parts of people—all manner of arms, legs, eyes, etc., which were meant to be given to God's people on earth, who were in need of healing. Yet, these body parts hadn't been received, because God's people didn't have enough faith. He also saw a medicine cabinet with pill bottles labelled "PEACE" and "OVERDOSE OF THE HOLY GHOST." Before the visit was over, Jesus himself took Liardon down into the River of Life, and splashed him, and dunked him under the water. Liardon also claimed that three years later, as he was watching "Laverne and Shirley" (a popular sitcom at the time), Jesus Himself walked in through the door, sat down on the couch beside him, casually glanced at the T.V., and then made the telly go blank! "Jesus" then told Liardon that he wanted him to "study the lives of my generals in my great army throughout time," and learn why they succeeded or failed. Then, "Jesus" got back up, walked out the door, and the telly turned back on. And what did Liardon do next? *He went back to watching "Laverne and Shirley"!*

Now, friends, I ask you: How could any supposed believer, who had allegedly seen the risen Jesus face-to-face, possibly go back to watching a silly sitcom? Remember in **John 7**, when the Sanhedrin sent soldiers to arrest Jesus, and the soldiers came back empty-handed? When the Sanhedrin asked them why they hadn't arrested Jesus, their answer was, ***“Never man spake like this man.”*** These men weren't even saved; yet, they were so awe-struck by the power and authority of Jesus' words, that they couldn't bring themselves to arrest Him. When the **Apostle John** saw his risen Lord on the Isle of Patmos, and heard Him speak, he ***“fell at his feet as dead.”*** After **Ezekiel** had seen the awesome vision of the LORD in His throne, he sat by the River Chebar for seven days, and was filled with astonishment. It was difficult for him to re-adjust to this world after seeing God's face, and seeing the wonder of Heaven.

If Liardon *did* actually have a "visitation" from a supernatural being, the words that this being spoke to him didn't curb his desire for worldly entertainment, did they? And why not? Because the "being" who visited him was not the real Jesus. But with *real* Christians, who know the *real* Jesus, this should not be so. When you open God's Word and read it, Christian, don't walk away unaffected; allow yourself to be conformed, even more, into the image of Christ. You have already heard His voice, by faith; and you haven't merely been *stunned* by His words; you have been *transformed* by them. But you must *continue* to let Christ change you. As you look into the mirror of God's Word, and you see Christ's glory, let Him change you into His image ***“from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”***

### III. The believer's inheritance in Heaven

Heaven is a wonderful place, my friends! Because there is no sin in Heaven, there is no death there. Death is an invader—an enemy that entered our world because of man's sin. In contrast, Heaven is a place where there is no curse of death at all. There is no *spiritual* death (separation from God) in Heaven; and one day, physical death will be abolished, too. That is why **Paul** said that "*The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*" Every believer will receive a new, resurrected, glorified, sinless body, which will be fit to dwell in Heaven. In **Isaiah 25:8**, **Isaiah** says that the LORD "*will swallow up death in victory; and the LORD God will wipe away tears from off all faces.*" Likewise, Paul says, "*So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*" There will be no more physical disease, infirmity, or pain in Heaven, either. After man's fall into sin, God cursed Adam and Eve with pain in childbirth, hard toil and sweat in their labours, thorns and thistles upon the ground, and, ultimately, death; but in Heaven, none of these things will exist.

Heaven is a place where "*all things*" are made "*new*." In Heaven, there is no disorder, or breaking down of matter. Everything will be continually renewed. The River of Life will not be a muddy, polluted stream, but will be "clear as crystal." The trees along the river will never die, but will continually produce an abundance of life-giving, delicious fruit, for all eternity. Just as God miraculously caused the shoes and clothing of the children of Israel not to wear out during their forty years of wilderness wanderings, so the spotless white robes, crowns, and other rewards of Heaven's citizens will never fade, rust, wear away, or be moth-eaten. And since we who are saved are "*overcomers*," we will therefore inherit *all* these things. **(Read Revelation 21:7 again.)**

#### Read Romans 8:14-17.

Christian, God says that you are a "**joint-heir**" with His Son, Jesus Christ: therefore, everything in the new heaven and new earth, and in the city of New Jerusalem, will be just as much *your* inheritance as it is *Christ's*! That's mind-boggling, isn't it? There will not (as the Jehovah's Witnesses say), be two classes of believers, some of them inheriting an earthly paradise, and a mere 144,000 inheriting the city of New Jerusalem, and being permitted to see Jesus' face. No, *every* true believer will *literally* inherit "***all things***," and will stand in the presence of his Saviour. We will all dwell in beautiful mansions, and go in and out of the city, and serve the Lord day and night, for all eternity. There will be endless peace and joy.

Yet, *why* will this incredibly beautiful place, with no tears, sorrow, crying, death, pain, or curse, be possible? Because Jesus, God's Son, bore the curse of sin in our place, on the cross! Jesus endured "strong crying and tears," and tasted of death, in order to pay for our sin.

#### Read Hebrews 5:7-9 / 2:9.

While Jesus walked among us 2,000 years ago, He was "***a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief***"; and on the cross, He took *our* sins, griefs, and sorrows on Himself. The thorns that sin had brought into our world were rammed onto Christ's head, in the form of a crown; and He became "***a curse for us***." He experienced a serious reduction in *His* "quality of life" when He stepped into our world, and became a Man; and in the end, He suffered the most cruel death imaginable. He did all this so that *we* might be delivered from this sin-cursed world, and enjoy an unimaginably blissful "quality of life" in Heaven. He paid an eternal debt for our sins on the cross; and in exchange, He will give eternal life to *anyone* who will have it.

**Conclusion:** At the opening of this message, I began to tell you the story of **Pilgrim** and **Pliable**. You'll remember that Pilgrim was telling Pliable all about Heaven; and Pliable liked what he was hearing. In fact, Pliable liked it so much, that he urged Pilgrim to move faster, so that they could get to the Celestial City as soon as possible. However, Pilgrim couldn't move very fast, on account of the burden of guilt on his back, which was weighing him down. In fact, it was at that point that Pilgrim and Pliable *both* lost their footing, and fell into a miry bog, which represents the *great guilt* that people often feel as they begin to realise the seriousness of their sin. Now, this was the first time that Pliable had felt any conviction of sin; and he didn't like it one bit. And so, Pliable turned to Pilgrim and angrily said, "Ah! neighbour Christian, where are you now?...Is this the happiness you have told me all this while of? If we have such ill speed at our first setting out, what may we expect betwixt this and our journey's end? May I get out again with my life, you shall possess the brave country alone for me." And with that, Pliable pulled himself out of the swamp, and went back to the City of Destruction. He was not "truly willing" to receive the inheritance.

Friends, most people in this world are just like Pliable. Many people *say* they want to go to Heaven; but they don't really want Heaven that badly. When the Holy Spirit begins to convict them of their sin, and show them that they need to *repent*, they don't like that feeling of guilt; and they certainly don't want to surrender the reins of their life to Jesus. And so, they turn back to the "City of Destruction," and never look back. My friend, don't let that be you! If you have never repented of your sin and believed on Christ, please do so today! Christ will save you, and give you "***an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.***" Should you be saved already, never forget the wonderful inheritance that you've been given! Serve Christ with all your heart, so that when you stand before Him at the Judgment Seat, you won't be hanging your head in shame, with no crowns to cast back at His feet.