

JUNE 26, 2021

RCCC WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Rochester Chinese Christian Church



WHAT IS HEAVEN EXACTLY?

by Young Choe

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:3). What a sweeping statement! I love God’s Word because it clears up any kind of confusions or misconceptions that we might have about ultimate realities; in this case, eternal life or what heaven is.

Growing up in church and in a Christian family, I always thought heaven to be a place primarily. and it is. But my picture of heaven or eternal life was just that – eternal place only. A life of never-ending place where you fly through the clouds, sleeping on them, eating apples, and smiling and enjoying the place and the scenery. A happy place like a never-ending vacation in the most beautiful place in the Hawaiian Islands multiply by ten thousand. Boy was I wrong and my picture of eternal life in heaven skewed. That was my problem, it was my picture and not what the Bible says.



Heaven is not primarily a place of eternal bliss that we are looking forward to but to simply put it – Heaven is God. That’s why it is such a spectacular, beautiful place because God is there; the knowing of God or the Knowledge of our God of the universe and Jesus Christ. That is what Apostle John, inspired by the Holy Spirit says in John 17:3 right? *“This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ.”*

We were separated from God because of our sins and now we are “without hope” to see and know the very God that made us. We have lost contact with the God of life and light, and only live in darkness and sin.

BUT, God sent his one and only Son to pay the penalty for our sins on the cross by dying and giving his life as a ransom. And by faith in the Son, rescues us from this “hopeless” state and unites us to the Son so that we might live with God forever in heaven. ***The Gospel brings us to God – 1 Peter 3:18.*** That is heaven!

Heaven is where we meet God, see him face to face and not die. To experience God, to dwell with Him forever in everlasting joy and happiness. Heaven is a life with God forever, for to know God is life!

Oh how I love the Gospel! It is indeed good news! People who love this world and want live forever in this world is crazy and blind to the glorious truth in God’s Word and not in touch with reality but breathing in the lies of the Devil. Didn’t Apostle Paul say, *“For to live is Christ, and to die is gain...My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better!”*

Oh friends, know God, know Christ more now through the reading and studying of God's Word. For if you do not know God revealed through Christ and God's Word, heaven will be a strange place for you – and wouldn't that be a tragedy in the making.

soli deo gloria

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羅城華人基督教會 WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

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天堂到底是什么？

by Young Choe

“认识祢独一的真神，并且认识祢所差来的耶稣基督，这就是永生”（约翰福音17:3）。这是何等透彻的陈述！我爱神的话，它消除一切困惑和误解；在这里，它告诉我们什么是永生，或者天堂是什么。

我在教会和基督徒家庭长大，一直以为天堂主要是一个地方，它也是确实的。但是我眼里的天堂或永生也只是如此——一个永恒的地方。一个无穷无尽的地方，可以在云中翱翔，以云层为榻，吃苹果，欢笑，赏景；一个充满快乐的地方，有如在最美丽的地方，比夏威夷好上一万倍的地方，永久度假。我真是大错特错，我对永生的图画也是偏颇的。那是我的问题，这是我眼中的图画，不是圣经描述的。



天堂并不主要是我们所期待的永恒的极乐世界，而是，简单地说，天堂就是神。这就是为什么天堂如此壮丽绚烂，因为神在那里，那里有对神的认识，有对宇宙真神，对耶稣基督的认识。这就是使徒约翰，在圣灵的启示之下，在约翰福音十七章3节中所说的吧？“认识祢独一的真神，并且认识祢所差来的耶稣基督，这就是永生”。

罪使我们与神隔绝，我们“没有希望”看见并认识造我们的神，我们与生命之神光明之神失联了，只能活在黑暗和罪恶中。但是，神差遣祂的独生爱子，死在十字架上，为我们的罪受惩罚，以祂的生命为我们的赎价。因着相信神子，我们得以从“无望”的光景中被拯救，与神子联合，可以在天堂永远与神同在。福音引我们到神面前 — 彼得前书三章18节。这就是天堂。天堂是我们与神相遇，与祂面对面相见也不会死的地方，在那里可以经历神，永永远远欢喜快乐地与祂同住。天堂就是永远与神同在的生命，因为认识神就是永生！

哦，我多么爱福音！那确实是好消息！爱这个世界并想永远活在这个世界上的人真是不知所谓，他们看不到神的话语中荣耀的真理，与真实脱节，而生活在魔鬼的谎言中。使徒保罗不是说过，“因我活着就是基督，我死了就有益处.....情愿离世与基督同在，因为这是好得无比的”！

哦朋友，请通过读圣经，查考神的话来更多地认识神，认识基督。因为如果你不认识基督和神的话所启示的神，天堂对你来说将是一个陌生的地方，那岂不是悲剧。

荣耀唯独归于神