

No More

I. Introduction:

A. Recently, a distraught wife went to the local police station (along with her next-door neighbor)→ To report that her Husband

was Missing: The Policeman asked for a description of the missing man... (& the wife said) “He’s 35 years old / 6-foot 4-inches / has dark Eyes / dark wavy Hair / an athletic Build / weighs 185 pounds / Is Soft-spoken / & Is great with Children”... **At that, the next-door neighbor protested:** “Wait a minute, that’s not right-- Your husband is 5-foot 8-inches / Chubby / Bald / has a Big Mouth / & he’s Mean to your children”... (At which, the wife replied) “Well yeah, but who wants HIM back?”

B. Well, I guess there will always be some things in life we won’t miss (Although I hope it’s not our spouses): I guess that’s one of the things I like about the Church-- In that there are many things missing in the church→ **That** you find too much of in the world... (e.g.) I Find more **Racism** in the world→ **Than** I find in the church / I Find more **Materialism** in the world→ **Than** in the church / When I look at other world Religions-- I find them more full of **Legalism**→ **Than** when I look at the church... **& By the way, all of this Prepares me for Heaven:** B/C (you see) while the glory of Heaven is found in what we’ll encounter there... It’s still true that one of the best things about Heaven→ **Are** all the things that are going to be Missing... **& So**, I want to think with me→ (& ask the question) “**What** is Heaven Missing?”

II. Go with me to **Revelation 21**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth→ For the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city (the new Jerusalem) coming down from God out of heaven→ Like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them→ And they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes→ And there will be no more death / or sorrow / or crying / or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Clearly, One of the most wonderful things about Heaven→ Is what will NOT be there: & So, let me use my time today to give you a taste of this→ **By Selecting** a few things that I hope will Intensify your Longing to go there...

A. #1 There will be No More Desire to Rebel: Now some argue Adam & Eve prove-- That just b/c we live in a sinless environment→ **Doesn't** mean we can't sin... (I mean) Doesn't Freedom of Choice carry over into heaven?... & What about Satan?-- He experienced the perfection of heaven→ Yet he still rebelled against God... & So, it's not a peripheral question to ask: How can we be assured that when we get to heaven→ That we won't end up doing what Adam & Eve did / & Set in motion a 2nd Fall?... **Well, allow me to state this outright: I'm** Convinced of this-- That All Temptations to try & rebel against God→ **Are** going to be missing in heaven... Now, let me try to break this down in a way→ **Where** you can see some of the reasons:

1st Will be that the **Futility of Rebelling** against God→ Will finally be completely Exposed: & That's b/c God's total Sovereignty

over all evil→ **Will** be obvious for all to see... **Although I'm not sure where: There's** going to be a place we'll be aware of called "**Hell**"... **& Hell** will be complete evidence→ **Of** the pointlessness of attempting to overthrow God... **& By the way: Unlike** cartoons & spoofs about Hell→ **The Bible** never mentions a throne in Hell... **B/C** you know who rules Hell?-- **God** does! / **God** is Sovereign over Hell... **& Hell** brings Glory to God→ **B/C** it testifies of the impossibility of removing God from His Throne...

2nd Will be that the **Truth about Sin** will be completely **unmasked: You See**, in heaven we'll fully grasp what Adam & Eve didn't- (i.e.) **We'll** know the cost & consequence of disobeying God... **Every time** we see the scars on Jesus' hands & feet→ **We'll** remember the ugliness of sin... **Sin** will be stripped of its Illusion... **& So**, sin will be utterly Unappealing to us... **You See, Adam & Eve were Duped by Satan:** (He told them) "**Why**, God is holding out on you"... **But** we'll know better→ **We'll Know** that God doesn't withhold anything good from His children / **& We'll Know** that sin isn't somehow in our best interest... **In Essence, we'll experience** Heaven's version of the Copernican Revolution-- (i.e.) **A Paradigm-shift** so overwhelming→ **That** we'll never again see ourselves as the center of the universe...

3rd Will be the Eternal Sufficiency of Jesus Christ's **Atonement: We're** told in **Romans 6** that the "**Wages of sin is death**"... **But** as we're told in **Hebrews 9 & 10-- Jesus** died ONCE & For All to deal with sin→ **So that** we never again need to die... **& Where** that takes us (you see) is that the promise of no more Death→ **Also** means a promise of no more Sin... **& So, in heaven: We'll** not need to defend ourselves against Pride & Lust→ **B/C** there will be none... **Understand**, that although sin is a part of us now→ **It's** not essential to our Humanity-- **In Fact** it's foreign to us / **It's** what Twists us→ **& Keeps** us from being what we were made for (& one day will be)...

4th Will be the **Incorruptibility** of our New Bodies (as Paul speaks

about in **1 Cor. 15**): **One of** the most frustrating experiences about living in Fallen World→ **Is the** constant awareness of my inability to give God all that He's due... **& That's b/c** I have a Sinful Nature that prompts me to do the very things I want to avoid / **& Like you**, I struggle with Shame & Inadequacy /

& On top of all this is simply the frailty of my growing physical limitations→ As My Body is gets Weaker / **& My Mind** gets to the point where I just can't think like it use to... **The fact of the matter is: Since** the day I was born→ **I've** never given God All He was due... **BUT** I'm going to get a New Body that will never get Weak / **& A** New Nature that will never be Morally Flawed... **I Mean**, imagine never passing your Peak!... **You See, the idea of being "Incorruptible" is a stronger word than being "Uncorrupted":** **In other words** (by implication), our risen-bodies will be immune to corruption... **Again**, unlike Adam & Eve who were created in **Innocence**... **We** (on the other hand) will possess a superior nature→ **In that** we'll be raised in the **Righteousness of Christ**... **Innocence** (you see) is the absence of sin→ **While** Righteousness is the presence of God's Holiness... **& So, even now Peter tells us (2 Peter 1:4): That** we're already enabled to "**participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires**"... **In Heaven** this Quality of life belonging to God will be fully ours-- **In Other Words**, we won't sin in heaven for the same reason God doesn't-- (i.e.) **He** cannot sin... **& So**, I look forward to giving God what He's been missing-- **My** Total Dedication!...

5th Remember, there will be **No Evil Presence** in heaven: **Satan**

will not have any Access to our lives... (As Jesus told John in **Revelation 21:6**) **"It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End"**... **& What** Jesus is telling us here→ **Is that** the Battle with Evil is Over!... **You might have noticed how the book of Revelation: Reveals** how Heaven

reflects back to the Garden of Eden... & As part of that Restoration-- We're told that the same Tree of Life that was in the Garden→ Will also be in Heaven... But conspicuously absent is the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil** (Which if you'll remember→ Was Satan's Leverage Point)... (B/C here's where Satan said) "Eat from this tree→ & You (too) can be like God"... But (you see) in Heaven the issue of who is God→ Will have been decided forever... He alone IS God / He alone SHOULD be God-- & We're not going to wrestle with that one any more... Well, as I hope you're beginning to grasp: **Our greatest deliverance in heaven→ Will be from Ourselves**... In Heaven we'll have no Inclination whatsoever to Rebel-- & It's hard to fathom just how wonderful that will be!

B. #2 There will be No More Confrontation with Evil:

Already we can see that evil will have No Foothold in heaven / No Leverage to affect us... & That's what John is referring to when in **Revelation 21**→ (When he says) "**There was no longer any sea**"... B/C the **Sea** in the book of Revelation→ Was the place from which Evil emerged from (e.g. the Beast in chapter 13)... To the Hebrews, the Sea was a frightening place full of danger... & So, the idea here: Is that there's not going to be any Terrifying (Intimidating) things in heaven-- There's absolutely nothing to Fear... That's why later on in **Revelation 21:27**: (we're told) "**Nothing evil will be allowed to enter-- Nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty→ But only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life**"... Of course, one of the Dilemmas our Country has wrestled with: Is How can we secure the **Borders of America**→ So that no Terrorists can Sneak into this country & Kill innocent people?... Well, you don't have to worry about whether or not God can protect the borders of heaven... Think About It: **A Place** where there will be no need for Padlocks (or Bolt-locks / or Burglar alarms / or Policemen) / **A Place** where we'll not have any reason→ To be Suspicious of anyone or anything / **A Place** where

there's nothing to Hide / **A Place** where all the systemic (ingrained) evil that has infiltrated all the Institutions of this world that set themselves up against God's Kingdom→ Will be Overthrown / **A Place** where even our own Sinful Nature (That frustrates us in to doing the very things we don't want to do)→ **Will** be thoroughly Cleansed & Disarmed... **We're going to be rid of all of it:** & We'll not miss any of it... **If we** Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness→ **We'll** finally be Satisfied-- **B/C there's** not going to be any more confrontation with evil...

C. #3 There will No More Expectation of Death: It's hard to work this out in my mind (as well)→ **B/C** Death (& its Shadow) are there from the moment of our Birth... **I'm not** trying to be Morbid when I say→ **Everybody** in this room is Dying... **Of course**, all of us (naturally) want to keep our distance from it... (Like **Mark Twain** once said with his wry humor→) *"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying that I approved of it"*... **But (you see) the presence of death isn't found just in the Cemetery (& Not just in the frail bodies of those who are considered very old):** **We're** confronted with death→ **Every time** we hear of a Child born with a Birth-defect / **Every time** we hear of a Teenager who has Leukemia / **Every time** we hear of a Person slipping away in to Alzheimer's... **You Know, when I was in my 30's:** **I could do a long run**, but my recovery time was quick enough→ **That** I could do it again the next day without a second thought / **When I was in my 40's:** **I could go for a run**, & the next day I would be Sore / Now, I'm in my **50's:** **& I** wake up in the morning→ **& I'm Sore-- & I** didn't do anything the day before... **Why Even Scientists** remind us that that the whole Cosmos is experiencing Entropy (It seems that even the universe is Running out of Steam)... **The Shadow of Death looms over everything:** **& This** is the only life we've ever known→ **So How** can we imagine a life outside the shadow of death? / **How** can we know that Heaven won't be like this?... **One Answer:** (where we're told in **Revelation 22:3**) **"No longer will there be any Curse"**... **The Curse** will be lifted — **& Can** you imagine what it's like to

live without even a thought of Death? (No Sickness / Death / Decay)... & We won't miss any of it!

D. #4 There will be No More Anxiety over Time: Now, let

me first say this→ Yes, I believe that we will be conscious of time in Heaven... You (probably like myself) have thought there's wasn't going to be time in Heaven... & That's probably b/c of songs like **"When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder"** / (& singing) *"When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound→ & Time will be no more"*... & The reason I believe that we're going to have time in Heaven→ **Is B/C** time is simply a measure of a sequence of events (Not to mention that in Scriptures→ **The** concept of time is clearly referenced as being in heaven)... **You See, it's not that there won't be Time in heaven→ But that we'll not live under its Tyranny anymore:**

Remember, the presence of Time isn't what marked the fallen world-- & So, time isn't the Problem→ the Curse is / Time isn't the Enemy→ Death is... **But Right Now (though) Time Pressures us:** As we jump from one urgent demand & crisis to another-- (I mean, how often do we react to life saying) **"I'm sorry** but I just don't have the time!"... I don't know about you, but most nights of the week→ **I go** to bed thinking that I cheated something... **& On top of all of this:** You know what Time does?-- Time is constantly reminding me→ That the things (Relationships / Experiences / Events) I love are going to come to an end / Every good thing in my life comes to a stopping point... **But in heaven it won't be like that:** (As we're told in **Revelation 22:5**)

"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun→ For the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever"... You See, in heaven Time won't be a Diminishing Resource... I think **John Newton** had it right when he penned→ *"When we've been there ten thousand years→ Bright shining as the sun....We've no less days to sing God's praise→ Than when we'd first begun"* ... **I don't know about you:** But I'm in a Hurry to get to a place→ **Where** I will never have to be in a Hurry again...

E. Finally #5, There will be **No More Separation from**

God: You know what's going to be missing in Heaven? -- Distance from God... Later in Revelation 21:22, John makes note of something that's missing (when he says)→ **"I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple"**... **& What John is trying to tell us is this:** If you remember, the **Temple Layout** had an elaborate system of Divisions→ To designate just how close a person could get to God (There was the court that **Gentiles** could pass / & Beyond that was a court for **Woman** / & Beyond that was a court for **Men** / & Beyond that was a court for **Priests** / & Beyond that was the **Holy of Holies** where only One Priest could go in)... **& So, it was all laid out with the clear message**→ "This is how close you can get to God→ & You can go no further!"... But in heaven there's not go to be any Barriers in Heaven between us & God... **& I'll tell you this:** You & I will never get enough of God... (Again, we're told in **Revelation 21:3-4**) **"Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them→ And they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes"**... **When you think of a world** where there will never be a reason again to Cry→ **Doesn't** it make you want to go home?... Why would anybody want to miss heaven?

III. News & World Report did a survey: Where they asked Americans→ **What** are the odds that certain Celebrities would go to heaven?... As you might predict, **Mother Teresa** was listed at the Top... & You know which celebrity was ranked Second?-- **Oprah**... & Then came people like **Michael Jordan** / **Colin Powell**→ With **OJ Simpson** coming in last... **But guess who the Typical American** thinks has even a better chance than Mother Teresa to go to heaven?-- **Themselves**... I

guess there's going to be one more important things that will be missing in heaven -- & that's **Pride**... **Pride** is what got Satan kicked out of heaven→ & **Pride** is what's going to keep people out... **You might have heard this little poem:** *I was shocked, confused, bewildered→ As I entered Heaven's door.... Not by the beauty of it all, Nor the lights or its décor / But it was the folks in Heaven→ Who made me sputter and gasp....The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics, the trash / There stood the kid from seventh grade→ Who swiped my lunch money twice....Next to him was my old neighbor→ Who never said anything nice / Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in hell....Was sitting pretty on cloud nine→ Looking incredibly well / I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal? I would love to hear your take....How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake." / "And why's everyone so quiet, so somber? Give me a clue."...."Hush, child," said He, "they're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you"... **If the Presence of God is the Best thing about heaven→ Then the Absence of Pride will be a close second:** Our first conscious thought in heaven will be→ "Only He is Worthy"... & Our second will be→ "Amazing Grace"...*

You know, that's was John's final thought: When he wrapped up his picture of heaven / & When the HS wrapped up the Bible→ You know what the last word is?-- (**Revelation 22:21**) "**The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people -- Amen**"... You know what heaven is?: **Heaven is Grace Uninhibited & Unending**... Don't Miss it!