

I've Got Questions about Heaven

#5 Will Heaven Ever Get Boring?

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, May 21, 2006

Science-fiction novelist **Isaac Asimov** declared his dislike for not only hell but heaven as well when he said... "I don't believe in an after-life, so I don't have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more. For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the boredom of heaven would be even worse." "World" magazine, July/August 2002, Marvin Olasky, p. 57 & 58

Now, in stark contrast to Isaac Asimov's opinion the Bible tells us:

I Corinthians 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

Psalms 107:8-9 "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness."

Two Reasons You Will Never Get Bored in Heaven!

I. The Presence of God Guarantees Your Endless Pleasure

Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.'"

With them... with them... with them... God with us... fully... and forever!

Jonathan Edwards defended and developed this thought - which he considered critical. He wrote...

"How soon do earthly lovers come to an end of their discoveries of each other's beauty; how soon do they see all there is to be seen! But in Heaven there is eternal progress with new beauties always being discovered." He continued, "Happiness of heaven is progressive and has various periods in which it has a new and glorious advancement and consists very much in beholding the manifestations that God makes of Himself in the work of redemption." Edwards contended that we will continually become happier in Heaven in "a never-ending, ever-increasing discovery of more and more of God's glory with greater and greater joy in Him."

He said there will never be a time when there is "no more glory for the redeemed to discover and enjoy." There won't ever "come a time when the union between God and the church is complete" because we will always be learning something new about our Bridegroom. Jonathan Edwards, "The End for Which God Created the World," quoted in John Piper, **God's Passion for His Glory**, p. 37

Psalms 36:7-9 "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house. And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light."

Psalm 16:11 "In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures evermore."

Our thoughts and fears about heaven being boring are actually indicative of a much bigger problem – it's the **Heresy** that God is boring. That's what it really boils down to, and there's no greater nonsense, there's no bigger oxymoron than the two words together 'God' and 'Boring.'

Boring? I don't think so! 'Boring' and 'God' don't go together!

Psalm 8:3-4 "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?"

Heaven will be the ultimate satisfaction... because with God – there's always more – because He's infinite. When you embrace God – you get more! Life is richer, fuller, sweeter, but when you reject God – you set yourself on a path of less, not more, less! Life gets smaller, diminished, and shrunken.

In his autobiography, Charles Darwin talks about trying to live life in the absence of wonder. When his theories of evolution had become entrenched into his heart, consuming both his time and his thoughts, he noted that he lost all interest in the arts and in music.

Why? Because life without God gets smaller... it loses wonder, luster, hope, and the capacity to enjoy, because God has given us all things richly to enjoy, but when you cut off the Giver, the Creator, you dramatically reduce your capacity to enjoy life – and it's only a matter of time before boredom and meaninglessness sets in.

"Why won't we be bored in heaven? Because it's the one place where both impulses - to go beyond, to go home - are perfectly joined and totally satisfied. It's the one place where we're constantly discovering - where everything is always fresh and the possessing of a thing is as good as the pursuing of it - Our craving to go beyond is always and fully realized. Our yearning for home is once and for all fulfilled. The ahh! deep satisfaction and the aha! of delighted surprise meet, and they kiss." **Things Unseen**, Mark Buchanan, p. 76

II. The Absence of Sin and All its Consequences Will Maximize Your Pleasure

Revelation 21:4...

- No more death
- No more sorrow
- No more crying
- No more pain

But maybe you're thinking...

- Won't it be boring to be good all the time?

- Have you ever noticed how often people associate sin with excitement... and godliness or righteousness with boredom?

C.S. Lewis said, “Joy is the serious business of heaven.” Pain is the serious business of sin! Sin doesn’t maximize your pleasure... God does.

Proverbs 13:15 “... the way of the transgressor is hard”

Proverbs 5:22 “His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.”

Psalms 106:43 “... but they rebelled against Him... and were brought low by their sin.”

III. So Why Do So Many People – even Christians - Have this Nagging Fear of Being Bored?

Too many times the answer lies in the fact that the Christian life you’re living right now is pretty boring ~ *It’s no great adventure...* you’re not living with the rush of God’s grace and hand on your life... you’re not living on the edge trusting God and risking for His kingdom. No! Your life is tame, subdued, safe, and boring.

- So what’s missing?

Staying connected to Christ and bearing fruit is what’s missing!

John 15:7-11 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

- Abiding in Christ
- Bearing fruit
- Following Christ
- Praying and seeing God break through
- Keeping His commandments... is an adventure! It’s a risk! It’s a rush!

Randy Alcorn writes “Another reason people assume Heaven is boring is that their Christian lives are boring. That’s not God’s fault; it’s their own. God calls us to follow Him in an adventure that should put us on life’s edge. He’s infinite in creativity, goodness, beauty, and power. If we’re experiencing the invigorating stirrings of God’s Spirit, trusting Him to fill our lives with divine appointments, experiencing the childlike delights of His gracious daily kindnesses, then we’ll know that God is exciting and Heaven is exhilarating... to be in His presence will be the very opposite of boredom... The real question is this: How could God not be bored with us?” *Heaven*, Randy Alcorn, p. 395

Praise God – the answer’s because of the righteousness of Christ – God will never get bored with us – because He never gets bored with His Son! He continually delights in His Son – and we’re in Him!

Isaiah 62:5 “... as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.”

Zephaniah 3:17 “The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”