

# *Miss the Mark and You Miss the Boat!*

*What does the subject matter place in your mind?*

*Positive or Negative connotation??*

*Warning to all:*

*For the Christian...prepare for heaven! Live for Christ.*

*For the unsaved...make preparations for heaven. Be saved today!*



*The mark of the high-calling of God. Sealed with God's Mark..*

*Ephesians 1:13-14, "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."*

*Ephesians 4:30, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

*2 Timothy 2:19, "Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."*



*The mark of the beast..*

*Revelation 13:16-17, "It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name."*

*Therefore, we see the subject matter from two perspectives..*

- 1. As a Christian.*
- 2. As a lost and unprepared soul.*

*All of the above seals/marks are choices that one has to make in life.*

*All of the choices are by an individual... not by a decision made by parents, pastor or family! Elementary statement... But... TRUE!*

*Today's message...Get on board God's boat to the promised land and do everything you can to see your loved ones are on the boat with you! Pray that they make "right choices."*

*There will be a "boat load" of people who will be docked in hell.*

*There will be a "boat load" of people who worship God and have accepted His Son as the Messiah!*

*Although there are more Scriptures warning us about hell than uplifting Scriptures that give us a glimpse of heaven, we will center in on why we should make sure we are sealed in the blood of Jesus where we can make it to heaven.*

*What Is Heaven Like?*

*A real place...Mentioned 276 times in the New Testament!*

- *The dwelling place of God.* "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."  
(Matthew 10:32-33)
- *Jesus promised to prepare a place for the true Christians in heaven* (John 14:2) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."
- *The Glory of God, the very presence of God is there!*  
(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. God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."
- *No night there.. Jesus is the light*  
(Revelation 22:5) "There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."
- *Heaven is filled with brilliance of costly stones*  
(Revelation 21:12) "And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. "
- *The paradise of the Garden of Eden is restored..*

*The river of the water of life flows freely*

*Tree of life is available again*

(Revelation 22:1-2) "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

- *The place of "no mores"*

*No more tears, No more pain, No more sorrow.*

(Revelation 21:4) "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

- *No more separation...death will be conquered*

(Revelation 20:6), "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

- *The presence of our Lord and Savior*

*Face to face with the Lamb of God!*

(1 John 3:2) "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

*Note: The reality of heaven is beyond the ability of finite man to describe! 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

*Why should anyone not want to get on the "Old Ship of Zion"?*

*Going to a place where there will be loved ones, friends you have not seen in years...and you will be with them for eternity!*

*Saved people live "forever." Evil people are punished forever."*

*C.S. Lewis said, "There are only two kinds of people in the end; those who say to God, 'Thy will be done' and those whom God say, in the end, 'Thy will be done.'*

*In another book...Lewis says, "I willingly believe the damned are, in one sense, successful rebels to the end; that the doors of hell are locked on the inside."*

*All that are in hell choose it!*

*God does not "send" people to hell. Nor does he send "people" to hell. People do not go to hell...sinners do. The rebellious do. The self-centered do.*

*So how could a loving God send people to hell?*

*Answer: He doesn't. He simply honors the choice of sinners.*

*What is the meaning of this message for the unprepared?*

*Heed the warnings and get ready.*

*This boat going to heaven will not be available for sailing forever.*

*"Death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart"  
(Ecclesiastes 7:2)*

*A good analogy: A boy stood on a windy hillside, flying a kite. He continued to release the string of the kite and it went higher and higher until it was completely out of sight. One of his friends walked up and asked how he knew there was still a kite on the other end. He replied, "I know it's there I feel it tugging on the line." Like the kite, we can't see heaven with our eyes, but we feel it tugging at our souls!*

*But....What about the Here and Now?*

*What is the purpose of a halfway house? Is it to rehabilitate....propagate...or determine our fate?*

*We are here to learn to love people...and to help warn these precious souls of the need to accept Jesus!*

*Let's Sing:*

**Song #1: Heaven is a wonderful place, filled with glory and grace.  
I want to see my savior's face, heaven is a wonderful place.**

**Song #2: Sing the wondrous love of Jesus...Sing his mercy and his grace  
In the mansions bright and blessed...He'll prepare for us a place.**

**Chorus: When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be  
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory**

**While we walk the pilgrim pathway Clouds will overspread the sky  
But when travlin' days are over Not a shadow, not a sigh.**

**Chorus: When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be  
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory**

*Hebrews 12:22-24*

*"...you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant..."*