

HOW TO ENJOY HEAVEN

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(Mt 25:14-30 & Lk 19:11-28 & Rev 2:4-7 & Mt 5:1-12)

HAVE A ***GENUINE NEED*** FOR GOD
AT ALL TIMES

Matthew 5:3 Those believers who experience “now” *a genuine need for God at all times (poor in spirit)*, because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God, are promised a ***special*** future!

Revelation 2:12-17 Christians who finish their race for God will “*stand out*” in heaven, *i.e., be special to God (and will give him a “white” stone)*!

Amos 8:11,12 God warned his people not to wait to need Him to need Him. God is not a genie in some bottle that we can conjure up at our leisure. Those who wait to need God to need God will find themselves without God when they most need God (See - Prov 1:22-33 & Ezk 14:12-23). Those who continually yielded themselves to the Word of God will not only experience a genuine need for God at all times but be blessed as well!

BE *TRULY REPENTIVE*

Matthew 5:4 Those believers who experience “now” *true repentance* (*mourn*), because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God, are promised a *comfortable* future!

Revelation 3:14-21 Christians who finish their race for God *will experience great comfort someday* (*will I grant to sit with me in my throne*)!

II Corinthians 7:8,9 Paul reminds us here that it is the Word of God that brings about a repentant spirit. Those who continually yielded themselves to the Word of God will not only experience genuine repentance but be blessed as well!

II Corinthians 7:10 This word (*repentance*) comes from the combination of two Greek words (i.e., *metanoeo*) and means, “*to change one’s mind; to perceive afterwards.*” The word is used 66 times in the New Testament. According to the Bible, it is used in 7 different ways:

- 1) It is used 39 times concerning the unsaved (See - **Mt 3:2,8,11** & 4:17 & 9:13 & 11:20,21 & 12:41 & 21:29,32 & **Mk 1:4,15** & 2:17 & 6:12 & **Lk 3:3,8** & 5:32 & 10:13 & 11:32 & 13:3,5 & 16:30 & 24:27 & **Acts 2:38** & 3:19 & 5:31 & 11:18 & 13:24 & 17:30 & 19:4 & 20:21 & 26:20,20 & **Rom 2:4** & **II Cor 7:10** & **II Tim 2:25** & **Heb 6:1** & 12:17 & **II Pet 3:9**). True *repentance* for salvation occurs when unsaved people *change their mind* (i.e., *repent*) concerning **two** things: 1) Who they are (i.e., they are vile and retched and deserving of hell - **Lk 13:1-5**), 2) Who **CHRIST** is (i.e., He is God and the ONLY Savior from sin - **I Tim 3:16** & 4:10)

- 2) It is used 18 times concerning the saved (See - Lk 15:7,7,10 & 17:3,4 & Acts 8:22 & II Cor 7:9,10 & 12:21 & Heb 6:6 & Rev 2:5,5,16,21,21,22 & Rev 3:3,19). True *repentance* for sanctification occurs when Christians changes their mind concerning their day-to-day sin. Although saved, Christians can still sin (See - I Jn 1:8-10). Those who do sin need to *change their minds* (i.e., *repent*) and confess to God their sin.
- 3) It is used 4 times concerning the unsaved during the Tribulation Period (See - Rev 9:20,21 & 16:9,11). Although these unsaved people during the Tribulation Period will witness the actual judgment of God upon their world because of sin, still, they will refuse to *change their minds* (i.e., *repent*) about God and the Gospel.
- 4) It is used 2 times concerning Paul's attitude concerning the first letter he had sent to the Corinthian Church (See - II Cor 7:8,8)
- 5) It is used 1 time concerning Judas Iscariot (See - Mt 27:3). Judas did not *repent* (i.e., *change his mind*) as to who he was (i.e., he was a sinner in **NEED** of salvation), he only *repented* for what he had done to an innocent man (See footnote on **Mt 27:3**).
- 6) It is used 1 time concerning God's attitude concerning the eternal priesthood of **CHRIST** (See - Heb 7:21 / Psa 110:4)
- 7) It is used 1 time concerning God's attitude concerning the gifts and calling He has given to each and everyone of his people (See - Rom 11:29 / Eccl 2:8,9)

Repentance is not "turning from one's sin." That is not what "metanoeo" means. It means, "to change one's mind," not one's life. If *repentance* means to "turn from sin and change one's life," then did God sin when He *repented*? I think not.

FINISH YOUR RACE

Matthew 5:5 Those believers who experience “now” *the willingness to suffer patiently (without resistance) in order to finish their race (meek)*, because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God, are promised to rule and reign with **CHRIST** during His 1,000-year Millennial reign, i.e., *inherit* the earth!

Revelation 2:18-26 Christians who finish their race for God *will inherit the earth, i.e., rule and reign with CHRIST someday (to him will I give power over the nations)!*

Numbers 12:3 This word (*meek*) is a Hebrew word meaning “*oppressed, afflicted, wretched.*” Biblical *meekness* describes someone who is willing to suffer patiently (without resistance) in order to finish their race. Moses was a man who submitted to divine authority (vs 7) when he did not want to (See - Exo 3:1-4:17) and was elevated to a great and lofty position that he never felt he deserved. Hence, he allowed his brother and sister to scorn his leadership!

“SEE” THE ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

Matthew 5:6 Those believers who experience “now” *the eternal perspective (hunger and thirst after righteousness)*, because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God, are promised a ***full*** future!

Revelation 2:12-17 Christians who finish their race for God *will experience the deep things of God, i.e., a full future (hidden manna)*! (See - I Cor 2:9-13)

II Corinthians 4:18 This word (*temporal*) comes from two Greek words meaning “*pertaining to a season.*” According to the Bible, the *temporal* is not real because it is not going to last - it only “*pertains to a season*” (See - II Pet 3:10-13). Only the eternal (i.e., that which lasts) is real. Therefore Paul encourages every believer to learn to “see” the eternal perspective. We do that by thinking about **two** things:

- 1) Heaven - There are seven truths about heaven that every believer needs to dwell upon:
 - 1) Heaven is a real place (See - Mt 6:19,20 & Jn 14:1-3)
 - 2) Heaven is a better place in which to live (See - Phil 1:21-23)
 - 3) Heaven is a place of final rest (See - Rev 6:9-11 & 14:13)
 - 4) Heaven is a place of reunited loved ones (See - Mt 8:11)

5) Heaven is a place of answers (See - I Cor 13:12)

6) Heaven is a place of great joy (See - Lk 15:3-7,10 & Mt 25:21)

7) Heaven is the home of God (See - II Cor 12:1-5),

2) What heaven thinks - THE PARABLES OF CHRIST

PRACTICE COMPASSION

Matthew 5:7 Those believers who experience “now” *some form of compassion for others (merciful)*, because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God, are promised a ***merciful*** future!

Revelation 2:8-11 Christians who finish their race for God *will experience **mercy** and no regrets (shall not be hurt of the second death)*!

Jude 1:22 There are **five** different Greek words that are translated “*compassion*” in the N.T. Each of the words has a different strength. The following is a list from the weakest to the strongest word:

- 1) Eleeo (See - Mt 18:33). This is the weakest form of *compassion*. It means to suffer without; to show outward pity.
- 2) Sumpatheo (See - Heb 4:15 & 10:34). This is the word where we get our word “sympathy.” It is a stronger word than “eleeo” and means to suffer within.
- 3) Metriopatheo (See - Heb 5:2). This word is much like “sumpatheo” only slightly stronger.
- 4) Oiktyeiro (See - Rom 9:15). This word is even stronger and means to suffer within to the point of distress.
- 5) Splachnizomai (See - Mt 9:36). This word is the strongest of all the Greek words and means not only to suffer within to the point of distress, but to yearn over that distress.

Interestingly enough, the word Jude uses here in verse 22 to describe the kind of *compassion* that can make a difference is “eleeo.” Truly, the weakest form of *compassion* can make a difference!

*HAVE THE PROPER **MOTIVE** FOR
WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO*

Matthew 5:8 Those believers who experience “now” *the proper motive for why they do what they do (pure in heart)*, because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God, are promised a ***personal audience with God*** in the future!

Revelation 2:1-7 Christians who finish their race for God *will experience a **personal audience with God** in the future, i.e., never be expelled nor denied access to the very presence of God (will I give to eat of the tree of life)!*

II Cor 5:14 It ought to be CHRIST’S love and faithfulness to us that motivates us to serve HIM, not our love and faithfulness to Him!

Revelation 2:4 Although the church at Ephesus was steadfast in desire (vs 2), strict in discipline (vs 2), strong in doctrine (vs 2), and sound in duty (vs 3), they were *sorry in their devotion to **CHRIST** (i.e., they had left their first love)*. Reason being: Their motive was wrong! They loved what they could do for God more than what **CHRIST** had done for them!

SHARE THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:9 Those believers who experience “now” *the command of God to share the gospel with a troubled world (peacemakers)*, because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God and tell others about **CHRIST**, are promised a *shameless* future! *Peacemakers* are not social reformers, but rather people who have been reformed by the power of the gospel (See - Rom 5:1). They are ambassadors of God’s message of peace (See - II Cor 5:18-20)!

Revelation 3:1-5 Christians who finish their race for God *will never be made to feel unashamed (shall be clothed in white raiment)*!

Matthew 10:32-33 Those of us who claim to be saved yet are ashamed to tell others about **CHRIST** down here will one day be made to feel ashamed before **CHRIST** up there (i.e., in heaven)!

***REACT PROPERLY TO
TRIALS OF LIFE***

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Matthew 5:10-12 Those believers who experience “now” *joy in the face of adversity (persecuted)*, because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God, are promised a ***rewarding*** future!

Revelation 3:7-12 Christians who finish their race for God in the face of adversity *will be **awarded** leadership roles for all eternity (will I make a pillar in the temple)!*

Nehemiah 8:10,17 Whereas happiness comes from “happenings” (i.e., circumstances), *joy comes from the Lord! Very great gladness* (i.e., *joy* - vs 10) is always the product of an obedient life to God. Whenever God’s people choose to put aside their feelings and live by faith (i.e., take God’s Word over their own), God is pleased and willing to dispense his joy to them.

Acts 16:25 Paul and Silas were able to experience the joy of the Lord despite their hardships because they choose to live by faith, not their feelings. Faith alone pleases God (See - Heb 11:1,6)!

