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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets modifying the biblical text underlined with dots. The abbreviation "NIV84" stands for the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION of the Holy Bible published in 1984. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1141.

REVIEW

Heaven is much, much different from earth!

In Heaven...

We never die.

We never get sick.

We never deal with "the curse" ever again.

We get to see God face-to-face.

We will be His forever.

We will never be without power.

As God's children, we have the most magnificent hope!



VERY IMPORTANT:

The assurance of heaven must not lull us into complacency or carelessness, but spur us to fulfill our spiritual duties:

The Challenge of Heaven:

1. We must keep His _____.

Revelation 22:6–10, 18-19, NIV84 - ⁶ *The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."* ⁷ "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this

book." ⁸ *I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.* ⁹ *But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"* ¹⁰ Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. ..." ¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

2. We must keep _____.

Revelation 22:12–15, NIV84 - ¹² "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done." ¹³ *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.* ¹⁴ "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city." ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

3. We must keep _____.

Revelation 22:11, 14-16, NIV84 - ¹¹ Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile [a better understanding of this section is this: You wrong-doers, go ahead and keep doing wrong. Just see what happens—it won't be good!]; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy." ¹⁴ "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city." ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ¹⁶ *"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."*



We have the promise of a perfect paradise called Heaven. May Heaven be more than a destination; may it be motivation to live our lives honorable to Him and worthy of His return.



REVELATION The future unveiled

A Study on the Book of Revelation

Answers to "The Challenge of Heaven" Sermon

Based on Revelation 22:9-19

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1. Word
2. Working
3. Worthy

Paul had a desire to depart and be with Christ. The type of saint who is homesick for heaven is pretty scarce these days. There is nothing morbid or abnormal about such a longing. The average Christian had driven down his tent pegs in this world, and is so comfortably settled in these lowlands that heaven does not have the attraction for those pilgrims and strangers who look for a City which has foundations whose builder and maker is God. It is difficult to stir up any excitement about the world to come in a generation as earth-bound as the present crop of mortals.

- Dr. Vance Havner, *Enter Into Rest*, p. 60.