

A TOUR BEYOND THE GATES

Which Gate Will You Choose?

By: James Eaves

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

- Proverbs 16:25 -

Thesis: Today we are going to take a tour beyond the gates so we may see what is there to be seen.

Introduction:

- A) In today's society people have a narrow view of what the Bible says that heaven looks like. (streets of gold and pearly gates)
 - 1) Even fewer have any clue about what hell will look like.
 - 2) Some are even convinced that there is no hell.
 - 3) I'm here this very day to tell you that there is a heaven and a hell.
- B) During our tour today we will venture beyond two gates.
 - 1) The gates of heaven will be our first stop.
 - 2) Then we will journey on to the gates of hell.
- C) As we begin this tour, let's try to picture these different things in our minds.
 - 1) Let's also keep in mind that this description of heaven that John gives us here, is only figurative language.
 - 2) The splendor of heaven is far too magnificent for us to comprehend.
 - 3) And the torment of hell is far too great for us to fathom.

---Now let's begin our tour.

Discussion:

I) First stop, "The Gates of Heaven." (Revelation 21:12-27)

A) A Picture of Heaven.

- 1) The great walls.-vs12
- 2) The city is pure gold.-vs18
- 3) The gates were made of pearl.-vs21
- 4) The streets are pure gold.-vs21
- 5) There is no temple.v22
- 6) There is no sun or moon.-vs23
- 7) There is no night there. -vs23
- 8) The gates of it shall not be shut.-vs25
- 9) There is no evil or iniquity only they which are written in the lamb's book of life.-vs27

B) Some False Ideas About Heaven.

- 1) The majority of the people on earth will enter heaven.
 - a) Those who espouse this belief usually believe in the Bible also.
 - b) The Bible tells us that this idea is false. – Matt 7:13-14
 - c) Acts 4:12 - Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- 2) We are in heaven today.
 - a) This theory is otherwise known as the A.D. 70 theory.

- b) It teaches that Christ came back in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed and we are now in heaven.
- c) Paul wrote to the Thessalonians and said, “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8)
 - (1) That sounds like we will all know that Christ has come back.
 - (2) Trumpets will sound – 1Cor 15:52 – this will not be a quiet occasion.

--Now as we leave the gates of heaven, we are now going to make our...

II) Second stop, “The Gates of Hell.”

A) A Picture of Hell.

- 1) We seem to have a problem, there’s no light.
- 2) Hell is a place of outer darkness. (Matt. 25:30)
 - a) The Greek meaning of this word is:
 - b) The darkness farthest out.
 - c) Illustrate “lost in swamp.”
- 3) So we’re going to use our ears to see what is in hell.
- 4) Now we have another problem, if there is anything else in hell we aren’t going to be able to hear it over the weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matt. 8:12, 24:41)
- 5) Pain illustration. (Arrow)
 - a) Fire – maybe like acid.

B) False Ideas About Hell.

- 1) Hell isn’t a real place.
 - a) It is a place where the fire is not quenched and the worm dieth not. (Mk. 9:43-48) **READ THIS PASSAGE!**
 - b) The Bible describes hell as...
- 2) Some say there is no hell and when you die in a lost state you simple are annihilated.
 - a) But this passage says that in this place the worm will not die and the fire will not be quenched.
- 3) What is Hell like?
 - a) It is a furnace of fire. (Matt. 13:50)
 - b) It is a place of punishment. (Matt. 25:46)
 - c) It is a place of eternal fire. (Matt. 25:41, Rev. 21:8)
 - d) It is a place of everlasting shame. (Dan.12:2)
 - e) It is a place of everlasting separation. (2Thes. 1:6-9)
 - f) It is a place for the destruction of both soul and body. (Matt. 10:28)
 - g) It is a place prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matt. 25:41)
- 4) Family doesn’t want you there. Illustrate
 - a) Luke 16:19ff.
 - b) The rich man wanted someone to go back and to warn his family.

--Now as we happily leave “The Gates of Hell” we will

I) Finally lets take a tour beyond “The Gates of Your Life.”

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. **(Matt. 7:13-14)**

A) Which gate is your life leading to?

- 1) Are you heading toward "The Gates of Heaven"
- 2) Or the "Gates of Hell."

B) If you're allowing God's Word to shape and mold your life, so that you may enter in through those pearly gates

- 1) I charge you to heed to the words of Jesus:
- 2) "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10)
- 3) But if you have not remained faithful there is still hope because:
- 4) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleans us from all unrighteousness." (1John 1:9)

C) If you want make that which is beyond the gates of heaven your home, you can begin that journey today.

- 1) God has left us the key those gates (His Word).
- 2) We simply have to listen to what he says we must do.

D) God has already paved the way.

- 1) He loved us and gave His Son for us (John 3:16)
- 2) His Son died to save us (Rom 5:8)
- 3) Christ gave us the saving Gospel (Rom 1:16)
- 4) Christ built his church for us (Matt. 16:18)
- 5) God wants all men to be saved (1Tim. 2:4)
- 6) Christ is preparing Heaven for us (John 14:2)

E) All we have to do is obey His will for us. We must...

- 1) Hear the saving Gospel (Rom. 10:17)
- 2) Believe in Christ (John 8:24)
- 3) Repent of our sins (Luke 13:3)
- 4) Confess faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10)
- 5) Be baptized for forgiveness (Acts 2:38)
- 6) And live faithfully (1Cor 15:58)

F) If we do these things we will be counted as one of the blessed.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14)

CONCLUSION:

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. - Proverbs 16:25

A) Which way will you choose?

B) Which gate will you enter in through in that last day?

- 1) Will it be the Gates of Hell...
- 2) Or the Gates of Heaven?