Heaven and Why We *Should* Want to Go There

When I was in my late teens or early twenties (I heard it more than once), I heard a sermon by well-known gospel preacher who, in later life especially, preached gospel meetings almost exclusively. He did so throughout the SE and Texas. The title of the lesson still sticks in my mind, “Heaven: And Why I Want to Go There.” I don’t recall the individual points of the lesson, but I do remember attempting to preach it later myself, so I probably have the bulk of them somewhere copied into one of “my” sermons.

But our text of Col.3:1-4 from this morning’s lesson got me to thinking of the topic. The admonitions to *“keep seeking the things above,”* and, *“Set your mind on the things above,”* obviously draw our minds and attentions to **heaven**…

While the glories and rewards of heaven are not exactly what Paul mentions in our text- instead referring to the *presence* and *reign* of Christ (v.2), and our *revealing* with *Him in glory* (v.4)*,* there is no doubt that descriptions of the *eternal reward* in other places are given as motivation as much as information. All of which prompts this evening’s question of consideration:

I. “Why do ***you*** want to go to heaven?”

1. To be rejoined with loved ones?
   1. Undoubtedly, this *is* a major motivation for some, cf. 2Sam.12:23.
   2. But please consider that heaven is a *spiritual place* for *souls,* so…
      1. Physical relationships, such as *marriage,* or the reconstituting of them, are not the purpose of heaven- and thus should not be our motivation, Matt.22:23-32.
      2. I was recently asked, “Will we recognize our loved ones in heaven?” Although I’d like to think so, I don’t really know, cf. 1John 3:2a.
      3. We *should* want to go to heaven to *see* (1John 3:2b) and be *rejoined* with our Loved One, and His Father, Col.3:1-2,4.
2. To enjoy your favorite pastime for all eternity?
   1. We’ve likely all heard some comment at a funeral that “Now (insert departed’s name) has the rest of eternity to (insert favorite earthly pastime or hobby).”
   2. Please don’t *cheapen* the glories of heaven with such trivial, earthly things! Such are surely the result of minds *set* not on heavenly/spiritual things, but *“on the things of the earth,”* Col.3:2; cp. Matt.16:23.
   3. The depictions of *heavenly activity* given in Scripture are of *worship* and the *endless singing of praises* to the Lamb and His Father, cf. Rev.14:3; 15:2-4.
3. To avoid the horrors of hell?
   1. Now we’re getting closer to proper motivations. There is no doubt in my mind that the graphic depictions of the *horrors* of eternal torment, cf. Mk.9:42-48 and Rev.7:15; 20:10,14-15; 21:8, are provided as *negative motivation*.
   2. But conversely, the *joys* of heaven provided in the Text are not *earthly pastimes* and *reunions of physical relations,* but:
      1. Freedom from *earthly sorrows,* Rev.21:4a;
      2. Abolition of *earthly death,* Rev.21:4b; 20:14; 1Cor.15:25-26; and,
      3. Annihilation of *earthly mourning, crying,* and *pain,* Rev.21:4c; because of the removal of *earthly hardships* which cause them*,* Rev.7:16.

II. Why *should* we want to go to heaven?

1. Because that’s where our *spiritual* (rather than *physical*) *relations,* Christ our *husband,* God our Father, and all our *brethren* will be, Col.3:1; Rev.7:17; 21:7; Matt.12:46-50;
2. Because that’s where our favorite *spiritual* (rather than *physical*) activitieswill take place for all eternity, Rev.7:15; 14:1-5;
3. Because that’s where we shall *see God,* bask in His glorious presence for all eternity, and become *like Him,* 1John 3:2b; John 17:24; and,
4. Because that’s where the *wedding feast* of the *Bridegroom* and His *Bride* takes place, Rev.19:5-9!

III. Now, two concluding questions:

1. Why do *you* want to go to heaven? And,
2. What are *you* going to do to prepare to go?