

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025

52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 50 - HEAVEN Phillipians 3:20

“But our citizenship is in heaven.

And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We live in a world where an increasing number of people do not believe in an eternal hell, a place of everlasting punishment. A frequently asked question is “How could a loving God allow anyone to go to hell?” My problem has always been just the opposite. By that I mean, I have no problem believing in hell. But how could there be such a wonderful place like Heaven? How could the love and grace of God be so awesome as to make it possible for a sinner like me to spend eternity in such a place? God has left us a few open doors in Scripture through which we can catch a glimpse of what awaits us there. Let's take a look into what lies ahead for those who trust Him.

HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF REALITY

Heaven is real. Throughout time God has implanted within the soul of humans a longing for such a place. This longing continues today. There is a hunger for a world that is free of pain and disease, for a world without poverty and homelessness, for a world that is pure and beautiful, a world without war and conflict. The human soul needs heaven, and it alone can finish what we leave unfinished here. Heaven is real. It is a place. Jesus said, “I am going there to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). It is a real tangible place.

HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF REST

So much of life on this planet is filled with exhaustion, mourning, struggles, and pressure of all kinds. But when we walk down heaven's golden streets there will be no more death. No more tears. No more mourning. No more crying. No more pain. No more farewells. No more separation. No more sorrow. No more sin. Whatever it is that may rob the joy out of life in this world will be gone--and gone forever. Heaven is a place of rest.

HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF RECOGNITION

Will know one another in heaven. In fact the Bible says we will be known as we are known. There has always been speculation about the possibility of alien life on another planet. Well I have news for you. There is alien life on our planet. Those of us who are Christians are aliens in this world for **“our citizenship is in heaven”**. We are simply passing through on our way home.

HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF REWARD

The Bible speaks repeatedly of certain crowns that will be given to believers. There is the crown of righteousness given to those who live godly lives and “all who have longed for His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8). There is also the incorruptible crown that will be presented to those who run the good race and finish strongly in the Christian faith (see 1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Next there is the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). There is also the crown of rejoicing (see Thessalonians 2:19-20). This reward is given to those men and women who are instrumental in leading other people to faith in Christ. Finally, there is the crown of glory given to faithful pastors and teachers who teach God's Word to others in truth and faithfulness (see 1 Peter 5:4). These crowns are not to be worn by us as we strut up and down the streets of heaven. In one of the most humbling and beautiful scenes yet to unfold, we will take our crowns and cast them at Christ's feet. He alone is worthy to receive “power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12). Many have the idea that heaven is a long way off. Not really. It is only one heartbeat away. James asked, “What is your life?” Then he answered his own question, “You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes” (James 4:14). For each of us, one of these days that old heart is going to stop. Then in the wink of an eye, we will begin eternity---somewhere. Then thousand years from today you will be alive---somewhere. Heaven awaits all who have come to God by faith alone in Christ. Jesus is the only way, to the Father's house.

As you memorise this verse, meditate on the fact the **“our citizenship is in heaven”**. This world is not our home, we are just passing through. Who wouldn't want to live in a place like heaven---forever!!