

**Remnant Life Church**  
March 17, 2019  
**Absolute Truth: Heaven and Hell**  
John 14:1-6

Week 1 - Absolute truth: The Word of God

Week 2 - Absolute truth: Jesus Christ

This morning – Absolute truth: Heaven and Hell

- A great number of preachers around the world, in every kind of church you can imagine, will often talk about heaven
  1. Why? – because it makes people feel good
  2. A vast majority of people when asked, whether they believe in spiritual things or not, will say they believe in heaven
  3. But the majority of those same people will tell you there is no hell – it is a place made up by early church leaders to keep the people in line
- The fact is – whether you believe in something or not does not change the truth
  1. When England closed its Libyan Embassy in July of 2011, Muammar Qaddafi became so angry that he ordered England to be removed from all maps in Libya. If you buy a map in that country today, that area will be represented by a new arm of the North Sea bordered by Scotland and Wales. But simply removing England from all maps in Libya does not mean it doesn't exist.
  2. When God told Noah to build the ark, in a region where the yearly average amount of rainfall is less than half an inch, he was ridiculed by his neighbors, but that did not stop the flood from coming.
  3. In Matt 24, when Jesus said not one stone of the temple would be left standing on another, no one believed him – but that did not stop the Romans from burning all of Jerusalem to the ground in 70 AD.
  4. When the scientific and religious leaders of the early 1600s said Galileo was a heretic for stating that the earth was not the stationary, center of the universe but that it orbited around a stationary sun, it did not change the truth.
  5. And so whether you believe in heaven and hell this morning not does change the fact that they exist.
- What is at the foundation of our belief in heaven and hell?
  1. Let's consider the first part of this question
  2. Is heaven real?
- Begin with what the Bible says...
  1. (Paul's letter to the church in Philippi) **Philippians 3:20-21** - *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*
  2. (John's vision given by the Angel of the Lord) **Rev 22:1-5** - *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the*

*throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.*

3. (Jesus, upon witnessing the faith of the centurion) **Matt 8:11** - *I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

### **READ – John 14:1-6**

- As Christians, we believe in the existence of heaven because...
  1. **Jesus said it was so (14:1)**
    - **John 14:1-2** - *Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*
    - When someone tells you something, you believe them based on what you know about them
      - Know them well, track record of truth – you readily believe what they say
      - Don't know them at all; track record of lying you might not believe until proven
    - We live in an age where you absolutely should not believe most of what you hear
      - There was time, not that long ago, when you simply expected people to be honest and truthful – that was the norm
      - The internet, facebook, and social media have all helped to tear down the foundation of honesty when we communicate with each other
      - Even the major news outlets of this country no longer care about truth, only advancing their political agendas
        - News stations used to report what was happening so you could then determine what you thought
        - Now they tell you what to think
      - To see something online or in print or on TV does not automatically make what you hear fact or truth
      - Even video evidence can no longer be trusted with photoshop and CGI capabilities
    - But Jesus, who was without sin, said that He was going to prepare a place for His disciples
    - Context – the disciples are struggling
      - Jesus has told them he will be captured and executed (**12:20-36**)



- He told them one of the 12 would betray Him (13:21-30)
- He tells Peter, the leader and most aggressively dedicated of the 12, that he will deny Him 3 times (13:31-38)
- Jesus says what we read in John 14 to encourage them
  - This place He was preparing was not in Jerusalem (He just told them He was about to die)
  - On the surface what Jesus is saying does not make sense – at least to Thomas
- We begin to get in trouble when we start taking the word of the world or our own reasoning over that of Jesus and the Word of God
  - **Prov 28:26** - *Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.*
- If Jesus said heaven exists then we can believe it to be true because of who He is – The Truth!

## 2. Jesus spoke of heaven as a specific location (14:2-3)

- **John 14:2-3** - *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?*
- Heaven is not some etherial, conceptual place created by early men in the church to placate the people.
- The word “rooms” in the original language is mah-NAY
  - It is also translated as mansion
  - Also has as it's meaning durable or long-lasting
  - For the Christian, that word should say “forever”
- Again, we believe what Jesus said based on the full account of what we know of Him
- What does that mean?

**Story** - In the early days of our country, a weary solitary traveler came upon the banks of the Mississippi River for the 1st time. There was no bridge. It was early winter, and the surface of the water was covered by ice but he was nervous about attempting to cross over. He wondered if the ice would be able to bear his weight. So he sat down trying to figure out what to do as night time was quickly approaching. It was now becoming more and more urgent to reach the other side and so, finally, after much hesitation, he began to creep cautiously across the surface of the ice on his hands and knees. He thought he might be able to keep from breaking thru if he spread his weight out and moved very slowly. After about an hour, having made it just halfway across he heard the sound of singing from behind him. Out of the dusk came a man, driving a horse-drawn load of coal across the ice singing as he went.

- If you know the full story – what the Bible says – who Jesus was and is – you can then believe and won't creep cautiously along on the promises of the Word thinking they may not support the weight of your faith.

## 3. Jesus gave us directions to heaven

- How horrible if the disciples had been told about this wonderful place then not know how to get there

- But Jesus told them in verse 6 after Thomas asked the question, I guarantee you every disciple was thinking – how do we get there?
- He told them – *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (14:6)*
- We talked last week about how so many today believe that any path (religion) will get you to God and heaven
- Jesus is the only way to the Father and the mansions that await us in heaven
- Billy Graham said, *The most thrilling thing about heaven is that Jesus Christ will be there. I will see Him face to face. Jesus Christ will meet us at the end of Life's journey.*

**Jesus said heaven exists – He described it as a specific location – He gave us directions on how to get there**

But what about hell?

- In contrast to heaven, there are not nearly as many sermons are preached on hell
  - Why? For the very same reason so much is preached on heaven, because of how it makes us feel.
  - The same people who believe in heaven will tell you there is no such place as hell
  - But just as heaven is real so is hell