

I want to be a Christian because I want to go to heaven!

➤ Intro:

→ There are a lot of reasons people want to be a Christian. In this series, we are explore a few of the most common reasons, people want to be Christians.

! **last lesson:** because I love God

! **this lesson:** because I want to go to heaven

! **purpose / convince:** think about heaven, foster an increased desire to faithfully serve God as a Christian so that you get to go to heaven

➤ #1 Who will go to heaven?

→ **The people who have washed their robes, will go to heaven.**

! **Rev. 22:13-14** Revelation, Jesus' conclusion and invitation

! **Rev. 7:13-14** wash robes, white, blood of the lamb

! **Rev. 2:10b-11** be faithful, crown of life, not be hurt by the second death

→ **Summary:** Who will go to heaven?

! **You, if you've been wash in the blood of the Lamb, you've obeyed Jesus in baptism, and you depart from this life as a faithful servant of Jesus Christ.**

! **Question (end of lesson):** Would you go to heaven, if you died today?

➤ #2 There's a cost to being a Christian — and going to heaven!

→ **We must obey God - last lesson: love God / obey God.**

! **Heb. 5:9** obey Jesus, saved

! **i.e.:** Jesus saves the people who obey Him

! **1 Jn. 5:3** love of God, keep His commandments, not burdensome

! **i.e.:** if you love God, we will obey Him, with the right attitude

! **Jn. 14:15** love Jesus, keep His commandments

! **i.e.:** if you love Jesus, we will obey Him, with the right attitude - visa versa

➤ → **We must take up our cross and follow Jesus.**

! **Matt. 16:24-27** take up cross - not always going to be easy, follow Jesus, can't buy heaven, coming of Christ and judgment

! **Matt. 10:34-39** difficulty of taking up cross - Jesus never intended it to be easy, must be willing to choose Jesus over family

! **Matt. 11:28-30** Jesus is going to help us bear our cross, make it as easy as possible

→ **Summary:** What's the cost of being a Christian?

! We must obey God.

! We must take up our cross and follow Jesus.

! **Personal evaluation:** Are you going to be one of the unusual people who obeys God, or are you going to go with the crowd?

! **Remember:** The road most traveled leads to eternal damnation - hell.

➤ #3 If you are a faithful Christian when you die, what will happen after your death?

→ Faithful Christians will reign with Christ during the thousand years.

! **Phil. 1:23** Paul knew he'd be with Christ at his death

! **Rev. 20:4-6** saints participate in the first resurrection, reign with Christ during the thousand years (when die today)

➤ → End of the world, return to earth with Jesus — reunion of believers.

! **1 Th. 4:13-18** reunion of all saints at the return of Christ

➤ → Then you will be judged.

! **Rev. 20:11-13** end of the world, judgment, books with deeds, book of life

! **2 Cor. 5:7, 10** walk by faith, obey God, knowing will be judge by Christ

! **Ec. 12:13-14** most important thing in life, fear God and keep His commandments, judgment

➤ → After the judgement, you will go to heaven — be awarded the crown of life.

! **Rev. 20:15-21:2** name written in the book of life, not be cast into the lake of fire, taken into the city of God to live with Him forever

→ **Summary:** If you are a faithful Christian, what will happen to you after you die?

! You will reign with Christ.

! You will return to earth with Jesus — reunion of believers.

! You will be judged.

! You will enter heaven.

➤ #4 What's it going to be like in heaven?

→ The **quality of live in heaven will be better than anything we can imagine.**

! **Rev. 21:2-8**

! have the good (**vs. 2-7**):

! married to Christ — the Bride

! God will wipe away every tear from our eyes; there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain — all thing will be made new

! drink of the spring of life without cost

! we will be God's children

! not have the bad (**vs. 8**):

! the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone — not be in heaven

➤ → The **grander of life in heaven will be more incredible than we can conceptualize.**

! **Rev. 21:10-27**

! **illus.:** diamond, small cube — blow up to 1,500 miles wide, long, high

! city is like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper (diamond)

! the city is square — 1,500 miles (12,000 furlongs) wide, long, high

! **perimeter** of city is 6,000 miles

! **e.g., driving non-stop at 70 MPH** would take almost 86 hours (3.5 days)

! city this size is **not fathomable to the human mind**

! 2.25 million square miles, 3.3 billion cubic miles

! cf. Texas only 268,601 / Alaska only 586,400

! holy city almost 3 times the size of Texas and Alaska together, just square miles

! **e.g., Hope Diamond:** vacation, Washington D.C., Smithsonian Museum

! city has a great and high wall made of jasper (diamond), adorned with precious stones

- ! city has 12 gates of pearl and 12 foundations adorned with precious stones
- ! city is pure gold, like clear glass
- ! street of the city is pure gold, like transparent glass
- ! no temple in the city — the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple
- ! the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it — the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb
- ! the people whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will live there

➤ **Conclusion:**

➔ **Summary: I want to be a Christian because I want to go to heaven!**

- ! Which of us will go to heaven?
 - ! The people who have been wash in the blood of the Lamb, obeying Jesus in baptism, and depart from this life as faithful servants of Jesus Christ.
 - ! Question (end of lesson): Are you one of the people who will go to heaven, if you died today?
- ! There's a cost to being a Christian — and going to heaven!
 - ! We must obey God.
 - ! We must take up our cross and follow Jesus.
- ! If you are a faithful Christian, what will happen to you after you die?
 - ! You will reign with Christ.
 - ! You will return to earth with Jesus — reunion of believers.
 - ! You will be judged.
 - ! You will enter heaven.

➔ **Inv.:**

- ! **Question:** Are you going to heaven? If you died today, would you be with the Lord, or —?
- ! **Jesus' invitation:**
 - ! **Rev. 22:13-14, 17**

Audio sermon notes:

- ! ➤ denotes the place to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- ! All Scriptures are NASB unless otherwise noted.
- ! Sermon recorded 10-9-05, Church of Christ, South Livingston congregation in Lutz, FL.