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# WHY SHOULD PASTORS TEACH MORE ABOUT HEAVEN?

*by Daniel A. Brown, PhD*

Though most preachers make passing references to Heaven in their sermons of other subjects, like spiritual warfare, prayer, and righteousness, our eternal reward is rarely the central focus of their messages. In fact, so few pastors teach about Heaven itself that it has almost become “*Paradise Lost*” in the waning days of the 20th century.

Why don't more pastors teach more about Heaven? First of all, they have not seen such teaching modeled by their elders. Secondly, the subject is confusing and intimidating. The facts the Bible presents to us are scattered throughout several passages. Without rigorous study, we are left with only sketchy details and a partial picture of what awaits us after this life on Earth. And lastly, Heaven does not fit well as a subject into the “*how to*” kinds of sermons that are so popular these days.

1. Because the church is not well taught about Heaven, it succumbs to common myths and misunderstandings drawn from secular stories, movies and philosophies that communicate profoundly unbiblical notions. We miss incredible opportunities to witness to our friends or loved ones with the specific promises of Eternity as it is spelled out in the Scriptures.
2. Heaven is central to the *Good News*. Everything Jesus did was to enable us to spend eternity with God in Heaven. If it was His main purpose, it ought to be more of our focus. He went there to prepare a place for us, so Heaven is the main draw of our message.
3. Enrollment in Heaven is a greater cause for rejoicing than deliverance ministry or spiritual warfare. Teaching more about Heaven will help keep our sense of victory in proper proportions. We have so many teachings on how to exercise spiritual dominion, but so few about the future when there will be no battle with the *powers of this age*.

4. Heaven is a greater hope than any miracle or any amount of faith. Not everyone is healed; not everything we believe for happens. Heaven is a sure thing for everyone who believes, regardless of what happens on Earth.
5. One of the easiest ways to “*test spirits*” and their doctrines is to examine what they say about Heaven and life after death. Truths about Heaven enable people to discern error effectively.
6. The more people understand the reality of Heaven, where God’s will is done, the better able they will be to invite His dominion into the present spiritual struggle here on Earth. Teachings on Heaven increase people’s perception of the spiritual dimension.
7. A sound understanding of Heaven will work against the subtle tendency the church has toward legalism. Instead of urging believers to do more, sermons on Heaven are victory celebrations when all has been said and done.