



- Departure
- Decisions
- Directions
- Detours
- Distractions

**Destination – The Beginning of Forever**  
**John 14:1-6**

John 14:1-6 (NIV)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**I. Heaven is a Biblical Reality**

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NIV)

"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."

Revelation 21

Verse 2-5 (NIV)

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

## Verse 23-27

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

*In heaven there will be no sin, suffering, sorrow, or pain. We will never do anything to displease God. There will be no persecution, division, disunity, or hate. In heaven there will be no disagreements. There will be no disappointments. There will be no weeping because there will be nothing to make us sad. We will have no more unanswered questions, no confusion, no ignorance, and no more need to walk by faith rather than by sight. We will never again have a selfish desire or utter useless words. We will never perform another unkind deed or think a sinful thought. We will be perfectly liberated from our captivity to sin, and finally able to do that which is absolutely righteous, holy, and perfect before God. It will be a life of unimaginable blessing! - John MacArthur*

## II. Heaven Brings a Personal Reorientation

- **Our Citizenship is Certain**

Philippians 3:13-20 (NIV)

Verses 13-14

"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Verses 15-17

All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

Verses 18-19

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

Verse 20

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NIV)

By faith Abraham...made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

- **Our Choices are Clear**

Hebrews 11:24-25 (NIV)

By faith Moses ... refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

*"Every longing for better health is a longing for the New Earth. Every longing for romance is a longing for the ultimate romance with Christ. Every desire for intimacy is a desire for Christ. Every taste of joy is but a foretaste of a greater and more vibrant joy than can be found on Earth as it is now. That's why we need to spend our lives cultivating our love for Heaven. Life on Earth matters not because it's the only life we have, but precisely because it isn't—it's the beginning of a life that will continue without end."*

*- Randy Alcorn*