

7 Wonderings of the World – Part #7 “If God is Loving - How can He Allow People to miss Heaven?”

Sunday June 3, 2007 / Pastor Dave Larmour

Notes and audio MSG also found at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio/>

Is there a contradiction in these two statements - ‘God is love’ and ‘Some people will miss heaven’?

1. What Kind of God would allow people to miss heaven?

a. **A Loving God**

- ✓ The God who says ‘You will miss heaven over my dead body!’

Q – What kind of God do you believe in?

The one with the pointed finger?

Or

The one with the pierced wrist?

- ✓ ‘Few’ is not enough and one is too ‘many’ (Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 15)

b. **A Holy God**

- ✓ ‘Have you ever tried swimming to Hawaii?’

c. **A Just God**

- ✓ A fair universe calls for retribution and reward

“Bertrand Russel wrote an essay: ‘Why I am not a Christian.’ Because Jesus taught about hell, he could not have been a good moral teacher.”

(Peter Kreeft)

d. **A Merciful God**

- ✓ The God who steps out of heaven, so we can step in.

2. What kind of people will make it to heaven?

a. **Freedom vs. coercion?**

- ✓ C.S Lewis and the God who honors choice
- ✓ Book Heaven and Coffee Shop Paradise
- ✓ Biblical idea of ‘gehenna’

b. **Broken vs. religious?**

- ✓ What must I do to inherit/earn eternal life? (Luke 18:18)
- ✓ John 8:1-11

c. **Forgiven vs. self-righteous?**

- ✓ “Remember me when you come into your Kingdom ...” (Convict on Death Row)
- ✓ “He saved others ... but he can’t save himself.” (Critics on the side-lines)

3. What will your experience be ... 5 minutes after you die?

The mythology surrounding what it will be like if we miss heaven ...

- ✓ Intense reward vs. overwhelming regret? (Matthew 8:12)
- ✓ Perfect peace vs. perpetual pain? (Matthew 25:41)
- ✓ Joy unspeakable vs. isolation unimaginable (Matthew 22:13)

“The day is coming when you will wake to find, beyond all hope, that you have attained it – or else that it was within your grasp and you have lost it forever! (Peter Kreeft)