

Introduction:

1. “Is it for me, dear Savior...?” So begins the first line of one of our beloved gospel hymns.
 - a. Is *what* for me? Did you notice the words of the song? Is *what* for me? The song is about heaven. Read all four verses. Every verse is about heaven. Is heaven for me?
 - b. But notice also that the song acknowledges our sin problem. Can Jesus take people like us who might be struggling in life and prepare us for heaven? Is it for me? Jesus answers “Yes!”
2. Do you ever feel that the words of this song characterize you? “Weak...sinful...grieve...”
 - a. Unless you deceive yourself into thinking you are *SuperSaint*, you have had feelings like these. All of us have conflicts we wrestle with.
 - b. And it’s not just the sin problem that plagues us—sometimes life itself just discourages us.
 - c. A young Christian housewife looks at a pile of dirty dishes in the sink and a pile of laundry on the floor; the mail carrier has just delivered another pile of bills; her 18 month old toddler is crying in the other room, she has just learned today that she is pregnant again; she has been arguing with her husband over money and family problems for a week...she wonders, “Is it for me...? Can I make it to heaven from all this mess?” Situations like these aren’t the exception; sometimes they can be the norm.
 - d. A young convert, filled with zeal, wants to really work for Jesus, but he sees a lack of enthusiasm on the part of many other Christians. On top of that, he hears rumblings that some brethren are going to leave the church because they are upset with something the preacher said. As if that weren’t enough, he saw one of the prominent men in the church walk out of the grocery with a 12-pak of beer. He wonders, “Is there really a heaven? If so, why aren’t these people living right? Maybe there is really nothing to Christianity? Is anybody going to heaven?” The young convert’s problems aren’t limited to what other Christians are doing; he is fighting his own battle with pornography; he slipped last week. He grieves over his sin and asks, “Can I go to heaven?” Here he is, a new convert, but already discouraged in his faith.
3. What all of this tells us is that faith is something that can be really fragile. Our faith, if not firmly fixed, can easily be damaged by problems of everyday life, even family life; it can be hurt by disobedient Christians, by rumors and half-truths; our faith can be overthrown by agents of Satan!
 - a. Hear what Paul says about what can happen to us and our faith, 1 Timothy 1:19-20; 4:1; 5:8; 5:12; 6:10. Notice the words used: “shipwreck, departed, denied, cast off, erred.” All of these things can happen to us and to our faith.
 - b. With these verses, we may wonder, “Is it for me? Can I go to heaven? Maybe it is hopeless?”
4. We need to stop right here! The Bible is not a book of hopelessness! If we read these verses and are discouraged, then maybe we have misunderstood the point of these verses. Maybe we need to read some other verses. The Bible is a book of encouragement. The Savior’s answer comes back, “Yes! Heaven is for you!” Look at the words of assurance found in Hebrews 6:10-20. We have a hope; that hope is the anchor that keeps the soul and keeps our faith! Our hope is heaven.

The Lesson:

- I. **For us to maintain a real hope of heaven it has to be a real place.**
 - A. Heaven is not a dream world or mythical place. In *Lord of the Rings* there was a pleasant place called “The Shire.” As lovely as that place might be, it is mythical. Heaven is real. Why believe such a place really exists? A number of reasons could be suggested.
 1. We could say that man has a longing for such a place. Nearly all people desire it.
 2. We could say that we need a place beyond this life. There is no real peace here.
 3. We could say that justice demands a heaven. Things aren’t right on this earth.
 - B. The real proof: The Bible says there is a heaven, John 14:3; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Titus 1:2.
- II. **But why would you want to go to heaven?**
 - A. Several answers might be given.
 1. One person said “I want to go to heaven, because it is not hell.”
 2. Another said, “Because God is there.”
 3. Still another said, “Because there is eternal happiness and contentment there.”
 4. All of those things are true, right and valid reasons for wanting to go to heaven.

- B. But, let's approach this in a different way. The one word that characterizes heaven is *new*, 2 Peter 3:13. Heaven as a new kind of existence—a new order for God's people.
1. It is new in location—it is a new place; it is not this earth, 2 Peter 3:10.
 2. It is new in character—it is a place of righteousness, 2 Peter 3:13.
 - a. There will be no wickedness there to threaten or harm. Have you had to put up with bad things from bad people? There is nothing bad in heaven.
 - b. There will be no temptation there to draw us away from God.
 - c. There will be no conflicts among family, friends or brethren. There will be no divorces, hatred or hurt. No arguments or fighting.
 3. It is new in duration—it is a forever place, Mark 10:30. We get to go there and get to stay!
 4. It is new with respect to our nature—immortal and incorruptible, 1 Corinthians 15:42-58. That means no sickness, accidents, aging, pain or death! That's why it is called *eternal life*, John 10:27-28. Jesus answered our question. "Is heaven for me?" What is His answer?
 5. It is new with respect to our disposition—one of perfect joy, 1 Peter 1:3-9. There will be no tears in heaven because all the things that bring tears will be gone. Look at the things mentioned above—wickedness, temptation, sin, arguments and fighting, sickness, pain and death—all these are causes of tears and prevent us from having perfect joy. They will not exist in heaven. Joy will exist—perfect joy.

III. But the question is: "Is heaven for me?"

- A. Can you really make it to heaven? You can. Jesus says you can, John 14:1-3. If you believe you cannot, it is in spite of what Jesus says!
- B. We have every right to be confident (unless we are persisting in sinful disobedience to God). See 1 John 4:17.
1. This is what the Bible is all about. It is about how people like you—ordinary people, people with family problems, job problems, church problems, money problems—can make it to heaven.
 2. God did not send His Son to die for us and then plan to deny us what He has promised on the last day, Hebrews 10:23; 6:10-12; Romans 8:31-32.
- C. But some folks seem to never be convinced that they can make it to heaven
1. "Isn't it kind of arrogant to believe you are going to make it?" Why would that be arrogant? If it is based on faith in our Savior, how is that arrogant? We certainly don't believe we are going to make it on our own do we? Our trust is in Christ the Lord.
 2. "But isn't heaven just too far amazing, too wonderful for someone like me?" Would you be happier if God offered you something that wasn't so amazing and not so wonderful? That's what we have now. God promises something far better than what we have now!
 3. "But if we say we are going to make it to heaven—what if we then fall back into sin and never repent?" Is that what you plan—to fall back into sin and not repent? I think we should plan to stay with the Lord, don't you?
 4. "But what if I can't overcome the problems in my life?" A young man came to me with a critical issue in his life. While the problem was serious, there was a Bible solution to what he faced. In talking with the young man, I quickly learned that he did not want a Bible solution; he wanted to quit. He played a game called "Yes, but..." To every Bible verse I gave, he responded with "Yes, but..." He couldn't understand why I thought his problems could be solved. Maybe he wanted me to throw up my hands in surrender like he was willing to do. People of faith do not surrender to the devil. Let's be people of faith!

Conclusion:

1. We are a people who need to live our lives in faith. Living by faith prepares us for dying by faith, Revelation 14:13.
2. People of faith do not allow problems to overwhelm them—whether they are family problems, conflicts with brethren, financial difficulties, or even struggles with sin.
3. We believe our God will help us cope with any difficulty we encounter. There is a Bible answer to every dilemma we face. We must refuse to take a defeatist attitude and give up in the face of trials. That is exactly what the devil wants! We will not yield to him. He is not God; our God is greater than the devil.
4. "Is heaven for me?" "Yes," says Jesus. Let's believe Him. We can go to heaven!