

The Best Is Yet To Come, Pt. 1
Series: God Is Good All the Time
Psalm 23:6; Next Steps Devotional Guide
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1. Read Psalm 23:6 from your sermon notes. The phrase "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" is the biggest, ultimate expression of God's goodness. This is the eternal goodness of God to you. If you think this is true for you, how so?
2. The first thing you learned what the Bible says about heaven is: heaven is a real place; not some state of being. Read Ephesians 2:5b-7 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, *"What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* How in your mind does this affirm the last part of *Ephesians 2:5b-7*, ". . . to show for all the ages to come, God's goodness to us because of Christ" (PAR).
3. Everything you've seen in movies about heaven is 100% wrong. There has never been a movie that got heaven right. Never. What have been the images Hollywood has put in the minds of people of what heaven is like? As you image of heaven changed through your life? If so, in what ways?
4. Read John 14:2-3 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, *"What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* Jesus' teaching about heaven is that is like a "home with many rooms." What do you think about this and how does it make you feel?
5. The second thing you learned what the Bible says about heaven is: heaven is a perpetual place that will last forever. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1 and Ephesians 1:10 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, *What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* Read the following survey results from Americans who were asked about the afterlife and heaven: (a) 10% percent believe we return to earth in a different form. (b) 10% believe there is no life after death; (c) 24% believe the soul lives in a different place, determined by past actions; (d) 48% believe we go to heaven or hell, depending on confession of sins and accepting Jesus; (e) The remaining 8% were undecided.¹ Over 50% of Americans do not believe the truth about heaven and the afterlife as evangelical conservative Christians do. What impact and implications does this have on you?
6. The third thing you learned what the Bible says about heaven is: heaven is a place reserved only for God's redeemed family. Heaven is God's home. You get to choose if you want to be part of God's family and go to heaven when you die, but not everyone is going or goes to heaven when they die. You have to have a reservation so to speak. Read Revelation 21:27 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *"What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* How does knowing there is a book in heaven called The Lamb's Book of Life affect you?
7. Read John 10:6 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *"What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* A lot of people think that "all roads lead to Rome." Meaning there are multiple ways to heaven other than what Jesus states in John 10:6. What do you think? Does your life reflect your belief and if so, how?
8. Read James 2:19-20 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *"What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* It is very clear that the demons tremble knowing there is God. James emphasizes that there has to be measurable works that give evidence you are saved. We are not saved from doing good works, but we should have good works for God as a result of being saved? How does James 2:20 build on James 2:19?
9. Read Jesus' words in Matthew 7:21 and Matthew 12:50 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *"What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* What do you think Jesus's message is in these two passages to you personally?
10. Read Revelation 20:12, 15, from your sermon notes under the heading, *"What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?"* Here we are again — back to this book called The Lamb's Book of Life. It is clear from Scripture that there are going to be some names not in this book. Take a moment and let this truth sink in your heart and mind. How does this reality impact you?
12. The Bible is clear: once saved, always saved. Read Jesus' words in John 10:27-29 and the Apostle Paul's words in Romans 8:35, 38-39 and Romans 5:10 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading,

¹Jim Holt, "Eternity for Atheists," The New York Times Magazine and The Barna Group.

“What Does The Bible Say About Heaven?” While this is reassuring, some people take advantage of this. In what ways have you seen people do this? Have you and if so, when and how?

13. Read Hebrews 6:4-6 from your sermon notes under the heading, *“If I Cannot Lose My Salvation, What Does Hebrews 6:4-6 Mean?”* First, the word translated as “enlightened” in Hebrews 6:4 is the Greek New Testament word [φωρίζω; fōtizō]. Read the explanation of this word under point #1 from your sermon notes. For over 60 years the Surgeon General has made people aware of the dangers of smoking and second hand smoke. Why is being aware not enough and what does it take to apply what you are aware of?
14. Read Jesus’ words in Matthew 4:16, where Jesus quotes Isaiah 9:1-2 and John 12:37-40. The same Greek New Testament [φωρίζω; fōtizō] is used in both passages. All who saw and heard Jesus saw this “great light,” but not all who saw and heard were saved. Seeing God’s light and accepting it are not the same.
 - a. Why do you think people in Jesus’ day saw all the miracles He did from healing the sick to raising the dead to casting out demons, yet even after seeing this, they still did not believe?
 - b. In John 12:40, Jesus puts the emphasis on “. . . while there is still time.” Being able to put your trust in Jesus is not always going to be available to people. In what ways do you think this is true?
15. Read Hebrews 6:4-6 from your sermon notes under the heading, *“If I Cannot Lose My Salvation, What Does Hebrews 6:4-6 Mean?”* again. The word translated as “tasted” is the Greek New Testament word [γεύομαι; geuōmai]. Read the explanation of this word under point #2 from your sermon notes. Why do you think some people only want to sample or flavor God’s Word? Has there ever been a time in your life in which you lived as these people lived in Hebrews 6:4-6? If so, when and how?
16. Read Hebrews 6:4-6 from your sermon notes under the heading, *“If I Cannot Lose My Salvation, What Does Hebrews 6:4-6 Mean?”* again. The Greek New Testament word translated as “shared or partakers,” depending on your translation is the [μέτοχος; metochos]. Read the explanation for this word under point #3 from your sermon notes. There are a lot of lost people who attend church and are even involved in serving a church in some way. They are present with the Holy Spirit moves, but they never choose to possess the Holy Spirit through salvation. What do you think keeps them from doing this?
17. Read Hebrews 6:4-6 from your sermon notes under the heading, *“If I Cannot Lose My Salvation, What Does Hebrews 6:4-6 Mean?”* again. The word translated as “word” is the Greek New Testament word [ῥῆμα; rēma]. Read the explanation from your sermon notes under point #4. Why do you think people want to pick and choose which Scriptures apply to them and which ones do not? Have you ever done this? Explain.
18. Why would anyone who wants to live their life — maybe 20-100 years — apart from God, out of obedience to God, choosing to be their own god, wanting nothing to do with God, then at death, want to be with God for eternity. Can you explain this?
19. Pastor Kelly calls the attitude of question #18 this: *“The Burger King Philosophy”* — *“have it your own way”* philosophy. To go to hell, you have to do almost an impossible thing. You have to reject the love of God. You have to reject the grace of God. You have to reject the forgiveness of God. You have to reject God Himself. Read Romans 10:9-10, 13, under point #4 under the heading, *“If I Cannot Lose My Salvation, What Does Hebrews 6:4-6 Mean?”* Why would anyone choose to reject God? Explain.
20. Read Luke 10:20 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *“If I Cannot Lose My Salvation, What Does Hebrews 6:4-6 Mean?”* After Jesus’ disciples return from doing all kinds of miracles, they start telling Him what they did. But Jesus cut them off and in Luke 10:20, He emphasized that having their names written in the book of life in heaven was far more important. Why?
21. Question: If you have given your life to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord and you know without any doubt your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, do you have any family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and etc., you fear their name is not written down in the Lamb’s Book of Life? What do you plan to do?
22. From his sermon Pastor John Dunn (1572-1631), wrote these enduring words: *“No man is an island, Entire of itself. Each is a piece of the continent, A part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less . . . Each man’s death diminishes me, For I am involved in mankind. Therefore, send not to know, For whom the bell tolls, It tolls for thee.”*² How do these words impact your life about yourself and lost people you know and love?

²John Donne, Devotions, XVII, as quoted in “Familiar Quotations, ed. John Bartlett, p. 218.