**Heavenward Bound**

*Philippians 3:12-14, 20-21*

**Introduction**

1. The apostle Paul lived with one ultimate goal in mind – heaven.
2. This goal was not simply announced in word, but was manifested in life of action. **(cf. Philippians 3:12-14** – He pressed on to heaven, for that is where his citizenship was.)
3. Do you want to go to heaven as much as Paul?
4. If so, why?
5. If so, is such a desire shown in your life? How is it shown?
6. Heavenward Bound – Desires for Heaven Manifest in Action
7. To be with the Father and the Son
   1. **John 14:1-6** – The appeal of heaven is as Jesus says, the presence of the Father and the Son.
      1. **(vv. 3-4)** – The preparation He goes to make is so that we may be with Him where He is – heaven.
      2. **(vv. 5-6)** – Where He goes is to the Father.
      3. If our desire is to be with the Father, we will be following Jesus as ***“the way, the truth, and the life” (v. 6)***
   2. **If we wish to be with the Father and the Son in heaven, we will do what is necessary to be in close association with them while on earth:**
      1. **(vv. 8-11)** – Philip, having heard Jesus say He will go to the Father, shows a desire to see the Father.
         1. **(vv. 9-11)** – Jesus explains He is the manifestation of the Father in His words, and deeds (performed miracles).
         2. **Ergo, to be in Jesus’ presence is to be in the Father’s presence.**
      2. **(vv. 19-21)** – However, Jesus would be leaving soon, and would no longer be with them.
         1. **How would they continue to be in His presence, and therefore the presence of the Father?**
         2. **(vv. 22-24)** – They must love Him by keeping His word, and the Father and Son would be with them.
   3. **Do you really want to be with the Father and the Son? Are you showing them love by keeping the commandments?**
8. To worship the Father and the Son
   1. **Revelation 7:9-15** – The true blessing of heaven is an eternity in the presence of God, worshiping Him.
      1. Those who consider heaven as a place full of their favorite things on earth would do well to consider this verse.
      2. **Worshiping God is a privilege and blessing, and heaven’s reward is an ETERNITY OF SUCH A BLESSING.**
   2. **If we wish to be in heaven worshiping the Father and the Son for eternity, won’t that show in our life? 🡪**
      1. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – The worship assembly gives us a taste of heaven. NO WONDER GOD DESIGNED IT, AND REQUIRES US TO BE THERE.
      2. ***“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’” (Psalm 122:1).***
      3. ***“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God” (Psalm 42:1)***.
9. To be like the Father and the Son
   1. **Romans 8:15-19** – We are sons of God via adoption, and heirs of glory, and we long for that to be consummated.
   2. **Won’t this show in our lives as we live on earth?**
      1. **1 John 3:1-3** – It is a great privilege to be called a child of God, and it will be wonderful when that is consummated in heaven.
      2. **(v. 3)** – Those who truly have this hope will seek to be pure, and continually strive for purity. ***(“purifies”*** – continuing action)
10. To be at home with the Father and the Son
    1. Paul said he strived toward the goal, ***“For our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 4:20).*** (HE DID NOT FEEL AT HOME IN THIS WORLD.)
    2. **Is heaven truly your homeland? Is that where you seek to be? It will show!**
       1. **Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16** – The one who seeks to be at home with God in heaven does not question God, nor does he make a home on earth.
       2. **HE DOES NOT HOLD ON TO EARTHLY POSESSIONS/PLACES, BUT TRUSTS IN GOD’S PROMISE OF SOMETHING BETTER. 🡪**
       3. **1 Peter 2:11-12 –** He lives as a sojourner and pilgrim – not succumbing to these things that will pass away, but instead, living for his home.
       4. **Matthew 6:19-21** – He who desires his home in heaven will store his treasures there. (**THAT IS A MANIFESTATION OF HIS HEART’S HEAVENLY ABODE.**)
11. Do you want to go to heaven? Are you heavenward bound? Does that show in your life?

**Conclusion**

1. **The one who is Heavenward Bound not only voices a strong desire to go to heaven, but manifests that he is on his way by how he lives.**
2. Are you heavenward bound?