

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people and tongue. They stood before the throne of the Lamb. These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Revelation 7: 9-11.

Heaven. How do you think of heaven? Is it your view that pretty much everyone goes to heaven? Except, maybe, for the very worst of persons? Is your thinking along the lines of: God is good and forgiving? I am basically a good person. I try to live a worthwhile life. Even though I mess up God still loves me and is willing to forgive me. So, no matter what happens, because of the goodness and forgiveness of God, I'm in good shape? I will go to heaven.

So, ask yourself where you came to understand heaven in such terms. A question: Does it matter at all what we do and what we do not do, in terms of our entering into heaven? Do you think it is possible to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with a lot of unforgiveness in your heart? With a lot of disrespect for people? With a lustful attitude toward others? With an attitude of judgment against people? Does it ever occur that you will not be able to cross the threshold into the kingdom with any of these sins or sinful attitudes in your heart? Heaven is a place of purity, forgiveness, selflessness, modesty, humility, compassion for the other. That is the kingdom. If we do not live kingdom virtues here on earth, why would we think that we will even want to go to “heaven” if we do not live, love and enjoy those virtues here?

Do I think that entering heaven is something that I personally do? Or is there something that Jesus Christ has to do to allow me to enter? Have I been washed clean? In what way? In the blood of the Lamb? How can I be washed clean—in blood. The Blood of Christ is different. The Blood of Christ alone has conquered sin and conquered death. The Blood of Christ is a sign of his love. Have I allowed his love to cleanse me? Have I accepted the cross in my life from whence his blood did flow? Or have I ignored Him? Turned to Him only when I want something? My friends, heaven is by no means business as usual. Christ is the only door through which we enter. Do you really believe that? The question of the week.