

Some Things You'll Never Finish in Heaven

For years I've sung the last verse of the hymn, "Amazing Grace," and tried to fathom what it will be like to be in heaven after 10000 years. When kids go to an amusement park, there is a sense of initial joy and excitement upon arriving, but after a long day of having been on all the rides, the joy and excitement eventually diminishes somewhat. By contrast, heaven will NEVER lose its joy or luster, no matter how much time passes. It will truly be a place of eternal and unending joy (cf. Rev. 21:1-7; Rev. 22:5). One reason for this is that we could spend an eternity in heaven and still never finish doing some things. Consider what will never be completely accomplished in heaven:

Fully describing and praising God's beauty and greatness – "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised" (1 Chr. 16:25). The greatest thing about heaven is that God Himself will be there; everything else is mere window dressing. When we finally see God face to face, it will take us an eternity to sing the song that adequately describes His infinite glory and majesty. The visions of heaven revealed in the Bible contain scenes of angelic beings constantly crying out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts" (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8).

Adequately grasping and appreciating God's love – Heaven will be eye-opening because we will experience what Jesus gave up just to be born into this world (cf. Phil. 2:6-7). Not only that, but we will better understand the depths of love that led Jesus to the cross (Rom. 5:6-8; Matt. 27:46). A hymn by Frederick Lehman puts it best:

"Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade; To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky..."

Completely describing all the details of ways He has worked in history – God, "Works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Eph. 1:11), and He, "Rules in the kingdoms of men" (Dan. 4:17). In His presence, and with the saints of all the ages present as well, we will undoubtedly see more clearly how God has worked all things together for good (Rom. 8:28; cf. Gen. 50:20). However, it will take an eternity to connect all the dots and to rejoice in all the ways He has worked to bring about the salvation of the multitudes that will be present in heaven (Rev. 7:9-17).

Exhausting our enjoyment of God Himself – The Psalmist stated, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11). There is no being greater than God, and because He is the Creator, all of creation pales when compared to the joy found in God Himself. One poignant verse commands: "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). In another place it says, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God" (Psalm 42:1). God is most glorified in us when we find our greatest joy and satisfaction in Him: "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil. 4:4).

Heaven will be a place of unending joy precisely because God is there. What more could anyone legitimately want?

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