Tickets To Paradise

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 29th, 2017

Text: Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:3-4

### Intro

1. If someone were to pay for your ticket to go somewhere, somewhere you really wanted to go, there would still be things you had to prepare for to be ready to go!
	1. **Pack your bags:** You still have to pack your bags! A ticket doesn’t pack for you!
	2. **Prepare yourself for your journey:** People usually diet, or get a tan, or work out in preparation for their trip, or try to acclimate themselves to where they are going in some way; Maps, routes, tourist stops, places to eat and see, etc…
	3. **Be Ready:** You still have to have everything prepared and be ready to make your flight! That takes preparation and being aware of time and plans, etc.
	4. **Make reservations:** A ticket somewhere doesn’t automatically get you a place to stay! You still have to plan and make reservations for places to stay & travel, (rental cars). Even if someone were to not only pay for your ticket but also make reservations for you to stay, you still have to get there!
2. While all of that is true in the physical, we can apply those principles to the spiritual!
	1. Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:3-4: Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross shed His blood that paid our debt of sin and made it possible for man to live forever with Him in Heaven!
	2. *Mt. 22:1-14:* Marriage of the Lamb to the church (Rev. 19:7-9). “All things are ready!” “Many are called” (All are invited)) but few are chosen (accept the invitation).
3. In a sense, Jesus paid our ticket to Heaven and made our reservation there, but we still have work to do to prepare for that eternity!

#### Packing Bags

* 1. Just as in the physical, we pack bags to be ready for the journey, we must also make sure our character is ready for our move in a spiritual sense, taking only the essentials!
	2. II Tim. 2:15: To be “diligent” (NAS) towards God’s word, or to “study” (KJV), is essential in preparing ourselves towards Heaven! It is through study and giving our best effort in understanding God’s word that allows us to tell truth from lie and “accurately handle” the word of God! (Heb. 5:14)
	3. Gal 5:22-25: Part of understanding the word of God is in application, and that application is we walk not by sight, but by faith (II Cor. 5:7), and to do that is to walk by the Spirit, and live by adding (“packing”) the “fruits of the Spirit” to our character!
	4. Heb. 12:1-2: It is important to know what to leave behind: “lay aside every encumbrance” – be ready to take what matters: our character! (Lk. 12:15, 20)
	5. Christ has bought our ticket to Heaven – Are your spiritual bags packed by walking by the Spirit?

#### Preparing Ourselves

* 1. Just as we prepare for our journey by preparing ourselves, whether physically or mentally, or knowing what we will do and where we will go when we get there, we must prepare ourselves spiritually to be ready for our journey to Heaven!
	2. Phil. 2:14-16: If we walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5), then we will be contrasted to the world around us and will appear as lights! Our character will be such that we are able to live above approach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation!
	3. II Pet. 1:5-11: We will prepare by adding the “Christian virtues” as they are called, knowing that Peter says if we practice these things we “will never stumble” and “the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied” to us!
	4. Titus 2:11-14: We will be ready, having lived “sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,” looking forward to the day when Christ comes again!
	5. Christ has bought our ticket to Heaven – Are you preparing yourself by living godly?

#### Being Ready

* 1. Even having a ticket in hand you still have to get to the airport and catch your flight! In the spiritual sense, we need to be ready to catch our flight (whenever that may be)!
	2. Be Aware, Be Alert! Have your “itinerary” and be ready to catch your “flight!”
		1. II Pet. 3:9-12: Knowing the day of the Lord will happen like a thief in the night (Mt. 24:36, 44) we must be prepared by living in holy and godly conduct!
		2. Titus 2:13: Having lived “sensibly, righteously, and godly” *(2:12)* we look forward to His coming! (II Pet. 3:11).
		3. I Thess. 5:2-8: As “Daylight disciples” we should not be taken unaware (like those who allow the thief in the night) but “be alert, be sober!”
		4. Part of being alert and sober is knowing we have an enemy (I Pet. 5:8-9) and be ready to stand firm against him (Eph. 6:10-13)!
	3. Catch your flight on the “Angel Express”!
		1. Lk. 16:22-23: The righteous was “carried away by the angels” and the wicked “lifted up his eyes, being in torment.”
	4. Mk. 13:31-33: Because we do not know when we will be catching that “flight” we must be alert, and “watch and pray!”
	5. Christ has bought our ticket to Heaven – Are you ready, alert, sober, and watching and praying?

#### Making Reservations

* 1. Just as when reservations are made physically, one must still show up to claim it! In the spiritual sense, we have a reservation already waiting but we need to claim it!
	2. I Pet. 1:3-4: Saints have a reservation for their soul in Heaven! (Heb. 5:9; Acts 11:26)
	3. The Book of Life records all those whose names have reservations!
		1. Lk. 10:17-20: Jesus told His disciples that the greater cause to rejoice is having one’s name recorded in Heaven.
		2. Phil 4:3-4: It is interesting that Paul’s challenge to “rejoice in the Lord always” immediately follows the statement about the book of life – It fits with what Jesus stated about it, that it is a cause to rejoice!
		3. Heb. 12:22-23: Those in the church *(Eph. 5:23)* are “enrolled in Heaven!”
		4. Rev. 20:12-15: John was able to see the Judgment Day of God that Jesus described *(Mt. 25:31-46)* and saw the small and great stand before the Throne *(II Cor. 5:10).* All peoples whose names are not in the Book of Life will perish for eternity in the “lake of fire” – The 2nd Death! *(Foretold in Dan. 12:1-2)*
	4. We must be ready when the time comes *(Mk. 13:33; II Pet. 3:11),* looking for and hastening the day of the Lord *(Jn. 14:2-3; Titus 2:13; II Pet. 3:12)!*
	5. Christ has bought our ticket to Heaven – Are you looking forward to your reservation?

## Conclusion

1. A physical principle of packing for a trip applies in the spiritual, except really it is planning for a complete move for we won’t be coming back! (Phil. 3:20: Citizens of Heaven!)
2. Christ has paid our way to Heaven and made us reservations there to live with God forever:
	1. Have you packed your character with the fruits of the Spirit?
	2. Have you prepared by living “sensibly, righteously, and godly” and by being lights?
	3. Are you ready for Christ’s 2nd coming by watching and praying?
	4. Are you prepared to accept the reservation after the Judgment Day?
3. Christ has paid for our tickets to Paradise – Let us be prepared!
4. If you are not a Christian and have said “No” to the above questions, you need to start preparing by first obeying the gospel, repenting of your sins and being baptized into His name!
5. If you are a Christian but said “No” to any of the above questions, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late – Repent and be renewed!