**“HEAVEN CAN’T WAIT!”**

**LAST DAY EVENTS SERIES #8, LA SIERRA SPANISH CHURCH, 4/18/20**

**INTRO**. A. **What would it take—for you to give up heaven? #1—**If I give **you $1000 a day** for the rest of your life can do whatever you want—and you’ll be healthy to the last day—but when you die that’s it? **#2—FARRELL’S ICE CREAM, the ZOO—**never get sick never get fat—every day, rest of your life? **#3—Free FERRARI for the rest of your life? #4--House on the beach, Hawaii? #5—**Coolest **MUSIC** coming into your head, perfect sound, every minute? #6—The most powerful **DRUG** they **make, just feel really crazy happy all day—but no heaven? #7—CRUISE SHIP,** presidential suite, for the rest of your life, go all over the world, show every night, fantastic food, never have to get off—**BUT NO HEAVEN?**

 **B.** Ever thought about what it would be like to be the one to recruit priests and nuns for the **CATHOLIC CHURCH?** Go to high schools—seniors come by, give them a brochure—“Want to serve Jesus for the rest of your life?” No sex, no getting married, no children, no making love. Wear black robes. **But that’s what we tell kids about heaven.** No sex. No marriage. Have to all wear the same white robes. Standing singing all day. NO TV, no sports. One kid said, “We’re just going to **GARDEN** all day?” Another said, “No, we’re going to **STUDY** all day!” One choir teacher yelled at the boys, “You better start singing right, because if you have any plans to go to heaven, this is all we’re going to do up there!”

**I. MYTHS ABOUT HEAVEN: A. Let’s start by knocking out some of the myths out there about heaven. #1—IT’S NOT PHYSICAL.** Some world religions say, it’s not real. You can’t touch it. You’re just a soul flying around. No, we believe it’s absolutely real. The Bible talks about a city, streets, trees, rivers. We’ll have houses and gardens. Pretty clear there will be music and dancing. God made us in His image, so if He made all that for us, it must be what He has up there. If none of it is real, than what did He mean, “**I go to prepare a place for you.’”** Like here.

 **B. #2—Everybody will LOOK exactly alike,** all white robes, all like angels, no more self, no more individuality. No, the Bible is clear we will know each other. Why would we promise everybody at funerals, we will see them again, IF when you get there you don’t know which one is who? Craziness. **CS LEWIS—We will be the most individual, the most unique.**

 C.  **#3**—**NO MORE TIME.** They say, moment we get to heaven, time will just stop. God is outside of time. Really? The second you walk into heaven—Just **FREEZE? FROZEN?** No. We’re go to sing, dance, talk. Says we’re going to be there 1000 years. That’s time. Worship every Sabbath—that’s time. Jesus said He’s going to knock, and come in and eat with us. Doesn’t mean **TIME STOPS**—just means we will have plenty of it. No more stress about time. Never have to worry about getting anything done.

 **D. #4—The worst Myth—BORING.** No fun. No sports. No TV. Just hymns. Sitting on clouds. Some of the great Church Fathers in the Middle Ages tried to say, it’s wrong to go to heaven for the **PLEASURE. We will just stare and worship God the whole time for 1000 years! No, the Bible everywhere talks about PARTIES!** \*\*1. Jesus went to parties. Every party wanted Jesus to come, because he was the best party Person. Rich people invited Him, tax collectors invited Him. He was the life of the party. He used parties over and over again in his stories. **TEN VIRGINS**—going to a party.

**\*\*2. PRODIGAL SON—**when he came home, father threw a party. I’ve preached 1000 times—Satan tells people, moment you give your life to Jesus, the Party is over. The Prodigal Son goes to the **FAR COUNTRY**, has a great party. But then the money runs out, and the party is over. But I tell the kids at colleges—**Look there are TWO PARTIES in the story. One party in the Far Country, one party at the Father’s house.** You’re not going to end up with no party—you’re going to get a party. Their party is going to run out, our Party is going to go on for 1000 years and forever! Their party, the lights go out, the music stops. Our party the lights are on forever, music will never stop. Just choose your party!

**\*\*3. CS LEWIS is the best on this—**All pleasure comes from God. God’s idea. Satan comes up with nothing on his own, just takes God’s ideas and messes with them, twists them. All our pleasures down here are just tastes to make you hungry for what He’s going to give you up there. The best **TIMES** you have ever had, the best **SPORTS**, winning **CHAMPIONSHIPS**. All tastes of what heaven will be like.

\*\*I got in trouble one time in a SS class for saying that heaven will feel like making love, every minute, forever. Someone laughed, said, I hope not, be too tired! No you won’t! Nobody gets tired in heaven.

**\*\*4.** Christianity Today had an editorial, Will there be **MOTORCYCLES** in heaven? One of my dreams in retirement is to get a motorcycle, ride up in the hills, nobody else around. Nobody knows if we will have motorcycles or waterskiing or making love in heaven. But whatever it is, it will satisfy exactly what you are looking for, the thrill in that—times 1 million. My brother told me about some movie—guy is in a hot tub with a gorgeous lady alien from somewhere out there. She says, Do you want to feel what we call making love? Yes. He starts to move towards her. No—stay there—and she begins to spread this aura over him—better than anything he has ever felt in his life. Whatever God has lined up—better. Nobody in heaven is ever going to miss this earth, wish they could go back!

**\*\*5. REWARD. A. REVELATION 22:12 “’Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with me.’”** That reward is not just going to feel like an award for the poor people. Feel like a reward for Bill Gates. For Michael Jordan, and Tiger Woods, and the Saudi princes.

**\*\*6. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepared.”** I have had some pretty cool days in my life. I have been to **VICTORIA FALLS in Africa—**in 2 days, we did Game parks, did a sunset cruise. Ate the most incredible breakfast out on the grass looking out over Victoria Falls. I have had days that were filled with pancakes and ice cream and massages and swimming laps in the pool and waterskiing and eating dinner by candlelight looking over the ocean—all in one day. I have been in people’s amazing houses, ridden in their unbelievable cars, going around corners at 70 mph. Bible says—it will be better than all that.

\*\*Famous quote: **CS LEWIS—“JOY IS THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF HEAVEN!”**

 **C. SHOES**—the old Jewish legend—tell quickly—man hated his life, ugly terrible wife, 4 terrible kids, begged God to take him away. Finally angel came—tomorrow—take you away to the Golden City. Got bag of gifts, next morning followed the Voice. Walked all day—got dark, not going to make it tonight, lay down by the trail, then, afraid forget which direction to go, put his shoes in the trail pointing in the right direction. Next morning saw glow of the Golden City, front gate, looked something like his old town’s front gate, but better, old friends, waving, but different, younger, alive, street, God, you are incredible, make the city something like my own street, house, walked in, gorgeous wife, 4 fantastic kids—God—you are amazing, gave them all his gifts. Heaven—something like our world today. **CONTINUITY.**

**II. NO MORE. A. But heaven is not just about the pleasures we will have that are LIKE what we have down here. It is also about what will be gone. DISCONTINUITY. REVELATION 21:3 “No more death, no more crying, no more pain, no more night.”** No more Aleppo’s. No more refugees. No more little boys dying on the beach. No more slums in India or Bangladesh. No more cancer, no more diabetes, no more heart attacks, friend of mine just died, my age. No more viruses. No more hospitals nursing homes, no more **Memory Loss unit like where my uncle is right now.**

 **B. NO MORE EMBARRASSMENT.** I told the story about the choir director, got her dress stuck in her underwear. We will never be embarrassed again. Never be afraid, or nervous, or feel inferior to anybody. That lady caught in adultery, when Jesus wrote those people’s sins in the sand, they all left. Which means I heaven, there will be no **JUDGERS< no finger points, no criticizers. If anybody does that down here and doesn’t give it up—wont’ be there.**

 C. **REVELATION 22:3 “No longer will there be any curse.”** Moses stands up in front of 2 million people--If you will just obey God, He will bless you—you will be the top and not the bottom, the head and not the tail. BUT if you don’t obey—you will get the Curses. They don’t obey, we don’t obey, we’ve got the curse. You know about the Curse. Cars break down. The curse. Termites in your house, the curse. TV remote. I made a u-turn here in La Sierra, side street, didn’t see the ditch, front of my car down in the ditch, back sticking straight in the sky! Church members driving by me. The Curse. Getting tickets, suitcases don’t come, gophers in the backyard, people that drive slow when I’m in a hurry—all a part of the CURSE! I play **MONOPOLY, I land on everybody’s hotels,** My father would never land on mine. He would see what he had to roll, and throw the dice—miss me every time. The CURSE. Look at our family, **NO HAIR for like 4 generations. THE CURSE.** But **GALATIANS 3:13-14 “Christ took the curse for us.” And here in Revelation it says-- THERE Will be no more curse.”**

**III. IN AND OUT.** A. Two more words are in here. **REVELATION 22:14 “’Blessed are they who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may go through the gates into the city.’”** They’re inside. But there’s another group—**REVELATION 22:15 “’Outside are the dogs, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolators.’” Two groups—IN--& OUT.** All our lives we try to get in with the in group. In on the sports team. Move up. Get in. But outside—a lot. You get married. You work for 2 years to get in. Finally she says YES. You walk down the aisle, and she says YES again. She lets you put a ring on her finger. You drove to **SANTA BARBARA**. The guy carries you stuff in, it’s the best room you have ever been in in your life. He sets everything up, fools around until you realize he wants a tip. Finally he leaves, and closes the door. And you’re in. Moment you walk into heaven you are going to be in. Feel the most IN you have ever felt. HOME.

**IV. GOD WILL DWELL WITH US.** A. And it says—**REVELATION 21:3/22:3 “’Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them, and they will see His face.’”** **JOHN 14:3 “’That where I am there you may be also.’”** Can you imagine what that will be look—God is right there. Every meal—God is there. For real. That feeling we have all been looking for—to be totally loved, accepted--we will finally feel. It is what we tell young couples—Don’t expect this one single person to make you feel perfect and complete and totally loved forever—they can’t do it. You were made for God. You will never feel complete and whole until you are face to face with God.

**V. BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SURE TO GET IN? A.** Baptized a couple years ago, saw some of the super saints in the church, thought, if that was what they had to do to go to heaven, not going to make it. Wondered if God had an A door, and a B door, you could still get in, maybe you didn’t get a mansion, but still in. Condo or something. Mixed some of the OLD ones, new ones. **B’s go swimming on Sabbath, A’s only go wading up to their knees. A’s pay tithe on the gross, B’s on the net. B’s go to movies, A’s wait for the video. A’s hug people at church, B’s text them. A’s use their Bible at church, B’s use cell phone. A’s go on mission trips, B’s go to Las Vegas. B’s eat out on Sabbath, pay cash, A’s eat out not too but only use their credit card. B’s play volleyball at the beach on Sabbath, A’s play, but just don’t keep score. A’s collect money to send their pastors on cruises, B’s think pastors only work half an hour a week as it is, don’t need any vacation!”**

 **B.** Just for fun. But there is always this lingering fear—that maybe the **“WORKS”** people were actually right, the **religiou**s **conservatives** are right—you will have to be really good there at the end to get in. Going to give up a bunch of stuff. Try to wait as long as you can until you go into the HOLY RIGHTEOUS mode for the last couple weeks, and hope you can hold it together long enough to get in.

 C. But look what the **LAST BOOK of the Bible says—**We get in by the blood of the Lamb. We will be singing the Song of the Lamb & Worthy is the Lamb. When they ask the Great Multitude how they got in, **REVELATION 7:9 “Salvation belongs to the Lamb.”** In the last chapter, it says—**REVELATION 22:12 “My reward is WITH ME.” REVELATION 22:13 “’I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.’” Then the last verse of the Bible—REVELATION 22:21 “May the Grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.” The last word is always GRACE.** How you get in never changes. Always Jesus. There will be no ranking, no A & B Christians. Just Jesus people and not Jesus people.

**APPEAL: A.** Heard a preacher tell a story. Pastor in NY. 3-year-old son. Birthday. Knew what the son wanted—some car. Went to the toy store. Big ones--$99.95. Middle sized ones. Little ones. Thought—poor pastor, maybe should get middle, or small. But—loved his son, want to make him happy—bought the big one. Wrapped it up. Birthday, sang to him in bed—where’s my present? Brought it. Told him, we don’t rip, we save the paper. But he ripped. Opens it—big car. Pastor said—I thought I would get thank you, hugs, kisses, thank you, papa. Nothing—stomped his foot—It’s too big, Papa. I’m little. Why did you get it too big? Take it back. No, baby, we’re not taking it back. No, it’s too big, I don’t want it. Finally got so mad, father getting mad—this is all you’re getting to get—kid threw it down on the floor pieces flying. Stomped out of the house, going to go live with grandparents in New Jersey. Got out his little tricycle, going to ride tricycle to grandpa’s house. Smashes tricycle into curb, falls over, now tricycle is wrecked, kicks it, now his toe hurts. Starts walking, limping, barefoot on the snow—to New Jersey, in his underwear. Parents watching behind the curtain. Gets about 50 feet, looks back at the house, comes back, up the steps, doorbell. Papa—it’s cold out here. I know, Baby. My bike is broken. I know, Baby. Do you think the neighbors saw me in my underwear? I’m sure they did, Baby. **Papa—CAN I COME HOME?** Picked him up—of course, baby, this is your house. Today, tomorrow, forever. This is your house. You can always come home. Is it my house—even if I’m bad? It’s your house—even if you’ve been bad. **HEAVEN IS YOUR HOUSE—EVEN IF YOU’VE BEEN BAD!**