

Family Talk July 26 Message
“A Heroes Welcome”
2 Peter 1

What does “HERO” mean to you? What do you think of when you hear that word?

When you hear “a hero’s welcome”, what is the first thing that comes to mind? (If you have time, google videos of dogs welcoming home their people and also some surprise welcome homes from military personnel and watch them together)

READ TOGETHER : 2 Peter 1:3-15

The Key Verse: *“and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

Question: What is the difference between a “welcome” into heaven and a “rich welcome” into heaven?

There are over 100 verses in the Bible that talk about eternal rewards in heaven.

Read Matthew 6:19-21.

There is more to heaven than just getting to heaven. There are rewards that last forever that can only be earned here.-

I. Live with Assurance-

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters,^[a] make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,

Question: What does it feel like to get a gift/present? What about a “just because” gift - not on your birthday, Christmas, anniversary, etc?

- Salvation is a free gift. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 (and keep your finger there for later!)
- “Election” and “Calling” signify the fact that God saves us. It is something we cannot do for ourselves.

What does that mean to you?

- We are saved by God through faith...that is, believing in Jesus and trusting what He did for us in the cross.

Question: Are you going to heaven? Have you asked Jesus to forgive you and are you trusting in Him alone?

If you said “no” would you ask Him and trust Him right now?

If you said “yes” then are you living with the confident assurance that you are going to heaven?

If you have trusted Jesus then **YOU ARE GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE!**

II. Build on Your Faith

-Peter wants us to have more than heaven, he wants us to have a “rich” welcome; to have rewards and a heroes welcome. We can’t earn our salvation but we can add rewards to our salvation!

Here’s how.

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

-Now Read again at Ephesians 2:10-

God saved us for a purpose. We are to be like Him. We are to fulfill His calling.

Question: Do you feel like you have a calling from God? How do you know what that is?

We are to live as if we are going to heaven rather than living for this earth!

Read James 2:14-17

It says...*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”*

Because we know that we are going to heaven (assurance) we should live for heaven, not earth.

Question: What does that mean to you?

We start with faith because only faith can get us to heaven. And because we are going to heaven we live with the following attributes:

Question: (take turns answering the following) What is your definition of GOODNESS? KNOWLEDGE? SELF-CONTROL? PERSEVERANCE? GODLINESS? MUTUAL AFFECTION? LOVE?

Goodness- goodness is doing the right thing no matter the changing circumstances

Knowledge- “acquaintance with or understanding of [something].”
Miriam webster..

Self-control- To abstain from the ways of our old self, our old impulses and temptations.

Perseverance- To practice these things continuously—for the fullness of our lives on earth.

Godliness- Living for the glory of God, living a holy life.

Mutual affection- Genuine care for one another

Love- To love God, to love others, to be loving for God is love.
Reflecting His nature.

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READ TOGETHER: Matthew 6:19-21,

When we have assurance of heaven through faith in Jesus, we can begin to add these things to our lives. The more we add these things to our lives the more we grow in assurance. They actually feed each other and grow!

Question: Why do you think God will reward us in heaven if these qualities are in our lives?

III. Remind Yourself through Scripture

Question: Have you ever gotten a reward or trophy for something? Do you still have it? Each person share their answers and talk about why or why not.

Peter wanted us to never forget that we are going to heaven. He wants us to live for heaven where every reward is eternal and not to live for this earth where everything gained will be lost. In order to remind us, he wrote down everything he had seen and learned about Jesus, salvation and heaven. **These are not made up stories.** He also lets us know that the whole bible is given to us so that we may always remember where we are going. He said “You will do well to observe these things”...that is, to read these scriptures and be reminded often of our destiny with God.

¹² So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

Question: Are you regularly reading God’s word.

Are you listening to it being preached and taught? A

re you involved in a small group where you can learn and grow in God’s word?

The Bible is a reminder from heaven of heaven. Live for heaven and receive a heroes welcome and a “rich” eternal reward!

Pray together - ask each person to share something that they may need to work on after hearing this message. Pray for one another as you not only seek salvation, but work towards the eternal rewards.