

“Three Ways to Miss Heaven”

John 1:6-13

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Introduction: There are some things that you do not want to miss. There are some things if you miss it really does not matter. It is no big deal. But one thing that you do not want to miss is going to heaven. Miss heaven and you spend eternity in hell. That is a big deal!

This morning I want to look with you in the gospel of John and see three sure ways to miss heaven.

Text: John 1 :6-13

- For over 400 years, the Nation had not heard the voice of a prophet.
- Then the Bible says, “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” (John 1:6).
- We know him as John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1).
- In John 1:13, we see three sure ways to miss heaven.

1. Believing that you will go to heaven because you have Christian parents is a sure way to miss heaven.

- What a blessing it is to have Christian parents.
- But having Christian parents is no “free pass” to heaven.
- We see this in the words “who were born, not of blood” (v.13).
- Salvation is not passed down from parent to child through the blood stream.

Application: There are two things to consider at this point.

1. You are not saved because your parents are Christians.
2. Your children will not be saved because you are saved. This is eye opening when you consider the consequences. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children about God, pray for their children to be saved, and be sensitive to opportunities to talk to their children about God.

Illustration: What I see today is parents are letting their children call the shots when it comes to God and church. Many children go to church if they want to. If they want to do something else on Sunday, parents say nothing. Even worse is that many parents encourage their children to do things on Sunday rather than go to church.

Application: Generally, children will take God no more seriously than their parents do.

2. Believing that you have the power in your own flesh is a sure way to miss heaven.

- We see this in the words “nor of the will of the flesh” (v.13).
- Your own will is not enough to save you. Why? Because your will wants to do other things if you are not a Christian.

Application: You cannot decide one day that next Sunday you will be saved. It does not work that way. You can decide next Sunday to join the church or to be **baptized, but not to be saved.**

Illustration: Jesus said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws Him” (John 6:44).

3. Believing another person can save you is a sure way to miss heaven.

- We see this in the phrase “nor the will of man” (v.13).

- No person regardless of how sincere they are or how much they want you to be saved can save you.
- The church can't save you. A family member can't save you. A preacher can't save you.

Conclusion: How then can you be saved? How then can you go to heaven? The answer is in the last words of the same verse—"but of God."