

# San Juan church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About...

### The Location of Heaven and Hell

Heaven is where the throne of God is. The apostle John wrote "Immediately I was in the Spirit and behold, a throne was standing in heaven and One sitting on the throne," (Rev. 4:2). John also wrote, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor for ever and ever," (Rev. 5:13). This is a place where God's will is supreme and is always accomplished, (Matt. 6:10, 28:18). Since heaven is the dwelling place of God, it is filled with the light of His presence. "And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all," (1 John 1:5). Heaven is not a physical place as we understand "places." Since God is spirit (John 4:24), heaven is a spiritual place where righteousness prevails in all things...a place of worship to God and Jesus (Rev. 4:11, 5:11-13).

Jesus said, "In My Father's house [heaven] are many dwelling places... and I go to prepare a place for you," (John 14:2). Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people, for those who are obedient to the gospel and live a faithful life. Heaven is different from this world in that it is eternal and will never fade. Peter wrote we will "obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time," (1 Peter 1:4-5).

Hell is the opposite of heaven. "And to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power," (2 Thess. 1:8-9). Hell is also not a physical location as we understand "places." Rather, it is the absence of God's presence. Jesus describes hell as: "The outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth," (Matt. 25:30).

Heaven and hell are real places that God has prepared. Heaven is for those who "walk in the Light...and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus", (1 John 1:7). For those who are obedient there will be an eternity of joy in the presence of God. For the disobedient there will an eternity of sorrow and pain, in darkness, cut off from the presence of God.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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