

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MISS HEAVEN!

-Ryan Parsons-

This week I read of an old preacher who loved his children dearly and longed for them to live right. As they grew older, he did not want to browbeat them or make them think he was always "preaching at them," so he looked for a way to lovingly and gently encourage them. He came up with his own heartfelt catchphrase: "Whatever you do, don't miss heaven!" As each child graduated and moved out of the house, he heartily urged, "Whatever you do, don't miss heaven!" As they began to experiment with the "pleasures" and the "ways" of the world, he gently implored, "Whatever you do, don't miss heaven!" Then, as they all gathered around his bed, with tears in their eyes, watching their adoring father take his last breaths on this side of eternity, they heard him whisper again, "Whatever you do, don't miss heaven!"

What a beautiful story! Like that preacher's children, we are faced with many unique obstacles, and there are also an abundance of temptations. Distractions vie for our attention from every conceivable direction. These present a grave danger to our walk with Christ.

Thankfully, we have the word of God that constantly encourages us: "Whatever you do, don't miss heaven!" Paul exhorted the Colossian Christians to keep their minds focused on eternal things rather than become consumed with things here on earth. Why? He didn't want them to get distracted from the things that really matter.

Colossians 3:1-4,17

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory....17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

No doubt this week, we will encounter obstacles, temptations, and distractions. Peter cautions, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8)." We don't want to give the devil any opportunity to pull us away (Ephesians 4:27). Keeping our focus on eternal things is the first step to thwarting his plan.

Whatever you do, don't miss heaven!