
January 14, 2026

What Can You Take to Heaven with You?

Philippians 3:7–8

You can't take your car, your house, your bank account, or any other material item. So, it's not what you can take to heaven with you, it's whom! Whom can you take to heaven with you? You can take your children, your friends, and your human family!

The point is, God's Son became the God-man to pay the penalty for our sin and provide the free gift of salvation to human beings.

Let me ask fathers a question. What is most important for your children? Is it their sports program? Is it their job in life? Is it the material goods they own? What is the most important thing for your children?

Consider this passage from Scripture:

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:7–8).

The most important thing for any person is that they've trusted Christ for salvation. There is nothing more important than this in the whole universe. It is vital. It determines one's eternity.

There is nothing more important than your children knowing Christ. There is nothing more important for eternity. Eternity is forever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and ... forever.

And Jeremiah reminds us that what is most important for all of us is that we know the Lord: Thus says the Lord:

"Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:23–24).

Now we all need to understand that no matter how we train our children, we can't guarantee their salvation. After all, *The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The*

righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself (Ezekiel 18:20).

However, at the same time, parents, and particularly the father as the spiritual head of the family, are to do all they can to train their children the way God instructs us to through His Word. There is always that balance between responsibility and sovereignty. We are to do all we can to train our children in the ways of the Lord. We must be diligent and teach them as the Scripture instructs us to. We are to pour in that biblical salt of truth and equip them with answers to defend the Christian faith.

We must teach them to build a truly Christian worldview. We also must make sure they understand the gospel and the vital importance of receiving the free gift of salvation. And we pray God will open their hearts to the truth and save them. But we can't do the saving. It's God who does the saving. But our responsibility and God's sovereignty go hand in hand.

Our five children all have college degrees. We selected God-honoring colleges for them. And even though I'm thrilled they all have graduate degrees and one even a postgraduate degree, I would rather our children be ditchdiggers and go to heaven than some famous academic or wealthy person and go to hell. That's the bottom line.

Remember, our children are made in the image of God. They each have a soul that will live forever in heaven or hell. That should convict each one of us concerning how much diligence we put into training them as we should.

Wouldn't it be great if what Paul said to Timothy could be said of each of our children?

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:14–15).

I praise the Lord my parents taught me God's Word from as far back as I can remember. They always took us to church and were highly involved in evangelistic outreaches to children. I remember my mother kneeling with us as she taught us to pray. I remember my father leading devotions at the breakfast table. And I'll never forget what they taught me.

My mother and father drummed into us, "God first, others second, and yourself last," and "It's only what is done for Jesus that lasts."

My parents were very involved with the church, always volunteering to help with various needs. And my father would also be teaching us the answers to liberal theology to make sure we would not be led astray by false teaching. He also filled in many times as the

preacher when the pastor was away. We heard him teach God's Word authoritatively. And we heard people thank him for such great teaching that ministered to them.

And even though there was no guarantee of salvation, all six of their children received the free gift of salvation. And all our five children are Christians, and the four who have married have godly spouses. Now, all our children are raising their children by teaching the truth of God's Word and the saving gospel. What a blessing to see this generational impact. So, fathers, hear God's Word:

Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation (Joel 1:3). And count the blessings:

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him (Proverbs 23:24).

Remember: "It's only what is done for Jesus that lasts."

Ham, Ken. [**Ken Ham Daily: 365 Musings, Inspirations, Answers**](#) (pp. 58-62). Master Books. Kindle Edition.

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