

Candidate 3 evidence

Understanding Standards Higher RMPS

Essay 3 – Christianity

Analyse the relationship between heaven and prayer. (10)

For Christians there is a significant relationship between heaven and prayer. Prayer is needed to keep a relationship with God, and a relationship with God is needed to go heaven.

Prayer is a form of worship for Christians. It can be done in many ways. Sitting, standing, kneeling and more. It's a kind of communication between Christians and God and is an opportunity to express thankfulness or ask for guidance. Prayer is important because it strengthens people's bond with God. By devoting time to the bond, they keep it existing and that bond is needed in order to get to heaven.

Heaven is one of the afterlife states outlined in the Christian Bible. Heaven is where the righteous go after death whereas sinners are sent to hell where they experience an eternity of torture. This is outlined in Matthew 25 when Jesus described a shepherd (God) separating his sheep (good worshippers) from goats (sinners). Heaven is the ultimate paradise though there is discourse within the Christian church whether it's a physical location or a state of mind. It is agreed upon by all that it is where the righteous spend their afterlife as long as they kept a good relationship with God during their life usually through prayer.

However, there is hope that even if a person does not do regular prayer that they will not be forgotten by God. In the parable of the prodigal son a father gives his two sons their inheritance money. One runs away and spends it all. When he returns to his father he is not angry about the irresponsible spending he is just pleased to have his son home.

This story mirrors the relationship between God and humanity for even when we sin God will happily take us back. This shows that even if someone doesn't pray as often as they should, there is still hope for them to be welcomed into heaven by God.