

Lesson # 10 – The Principles Related to a Correct View of Salvation and Destiny.

Introduction

- A. One of the most basic characteristics of the kingdom of God is that it is of a spiritual nature. That is what the Lord Jesus meant when He said - "My kingdom is not of this world" John 18:36
- B. This is not to imply that the kingdom of God will not, in the future, find manifestation in political, social, economic, and even geographical areas of life. However, even then, the basis of the kingdom and its basic characteristic will be the spiritual.
- C. When we as believers consider what the Bible says about our destiny we find that this is closely related to the message about and the content of the kingdom of God. The Scripture has a great deal to say about our future - with the emphasis on the spiritual.
- D. The basic text for this lesson, Matthew 26:26-29.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat, this is my body.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it.

For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

- E. From these verses we recognize that the destiny of those who believed upon Him was important to the Lord Jesus Christ. From this we may surely say that our destiny is important to Him. It will help us in our spiritual growth to understand how our future is intertwined with the meaning of the kingdom of God.
 - F. In order to understand this great subject of our destiny I have chosen to accomplish this by utilizing certain words, largely taken from Scripture, which will serve to indicate the wonderful future that is in store for all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- I. Orientation - The Foundation of Our Destiny.
- A. Our creation - the basis of immortality.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7

Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his (the Lord Jesus) voice.

*And shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.
John 5:28,29*

Observation: While these verses do not directly teach our immortality (unending existence) it does so indirectly. Every person has been designed by God to live forever and will be so upheld by God that he will never go out of existence. It is helpful, in this regard, to notice that the words used in the Bible to indicate the eternal rule of God are also utilized to describe the eternal punishment of the non-Christian.
(Compare Rev. 5:13 with 14:11)

B. Our redemption - the basis of provision.

I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd given his life for the sheep.
John 10:11

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. John 10:27,28*

Observation: These verses teach us that the believer in Jesus Christ - as Lord and Savior - has been given eternal life. This is more than eternal existence. To have eternal life means a future life in heaven - in fellowship with Jesus Christ. This term indicates all the good that will come to the believer through the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because He died for us and was Resurrected from the grave - we have eternal life.

C. Our election - the basis of selection.

*But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.
Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. II Thess. 2:13,14*

Observation: This matter of divine election is filled with mystery. We do know, however, that we are believers - not because of our good works - but because we have been chosen by the Father. We are going to spend eternity in heaven only because of the grace of God.

D. Our decision - the basis of eternal life.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24

Observation: There is a most intimate relationship between God's sovereign election and our decision to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. When we made the choice to repent, believe, receive, and submit to the Savior - we were given the assurance of eternal life.

II. Explanation - The Interpretation of Our Destiny.

A. The word - Forerunner - indicating the security of our destiny.

Wherein, God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Hebrews 6:17-20

Observation: The Lord Jesus entered into Heaven as our Forerunner. This term indicates the representative capacity that He had whereby all believers are seen as spiritually "present" with Him and valued with all the work which He performed for them. This simply means that when the Lord Jesus entered into Heaven - every individual who will ever believe on Him - will surely follow Him and will live forever with Him there.

B. The word - Mansions - indicating the description of our destiny.

Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:1,2.

Observation: These verses bring to mind the thought of "home" with all the rest, peace, happiness, acceptance, and security with which we are familiar. The word translated "mansions" is designating a "permanent abiding-place". This is similar to what the Lord Jesus had in mind when He spoke to the repentant thief and promised that he would be with Him in "paradise" (Luke 23:43). When we enter into Heaven we will, in a real sense, be "home" for the first time in our life. Every genuine comfort and fulfillment that we have known here will be there - but in a measure that far exceeds anything that we have ever imagined.

C. The word - Reunion - indicating the goal of our destiny.

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. Matthew 26:29

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with there in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words. I Thess. 4:17,18

Observation: Our entrance into Heaven is something of a "goal" for the Lord Jesus. There is a great celebration that He has in mind for us. When this comes to pass it will be like a celebration at a marriage (Rev. 19:6-9). It is beyond our wildest imagination - to be given the privilege of eating and drinking with the Lord Jesus - but that is what He has promised! We also know that there will be a glad reunion with all those loved ones who have died as believers. No wonder Paul stated that these promises should be a comfort to us.

D. The word - Citizenship - indicating the assurance of our destiny.

For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Phil. 3:20

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you, but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.
Luke 10:20

Observation: To be a Christian means that we are on the roll in Heaven. We are legal members of the Kingdom of Heaven. For the believer this brings assurance. This also explains why we find such little genuine fulfillment in this life - we are strangers and pilgrims - we are away from home!

E. The word - Hope - indicating the expectation of our destiny.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Titus 2:11-13

Observation: The word "hope" is not used in the Scripture as something that is doubtful - but that which is certain to occur - even though now future. Our future is also described as a "hope" because of how this fills our thoughts with expectation. This matter of entering Heaven - or of the Lord's coming - should be a major item in our future. We should be taken up with an attitude of expectation that would influence every facet of our life now.

F. The word - Inheritance - indicating the permanence of our destiny.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. I Peter 1:3,11

Observation: In contrast to earthly inheritances, this heavenly inheritance is not passing away - and it will not lead a person astray. Our inheritance is in Heaven - and it is being kept for us by God Himself. One cannot overlook the implication of permanence in these words. All that we know here is passing away - and is in some degree - disappointing. There will be a day in your life and mine when we will enter into that provision that God has prepared and kept for us. With all of this we will find no disappointment.

G. The word - Glorification - indicating the purpose of our destiny.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. . . .

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. . . .

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called, and whom he called, them he also justified, and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Romans 8:18,21,30

Observation: This term "glorification" designates that great time in which all the redemptive work of God will be applied to the believer. The result of this will be complete freedom from all forms of sinful limitation or even the effects of sin. We will no longer face temptation, personal vulnerabilities to sin, or sinful patterns of response. This will be a day when we will have every form of liberty - such as we have never known it. God has made every provision for our glorification, the Lord Jesus prayed for it to come to pass (John 17:24), and one of these days it will be a glorious reality for each of us.

H. The word - Resurrection - indicating the victory of our destiny.

Behold I shew you a mystery, we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory[^]

O death, where is thy sting? O grace, where is thy victory?
I Cor. 15:51-55

Observation: A remarkable part of our destiny - is physical resurrection. Even our material body will be delivered from the effects of sin. The glorification that has been provided for us will be applied to our bodies. All manifestations of sin with its sickness, weakness, and death - will be erased. None of us has ever lived with the benefits - physically and spiritually - that are yet ahead for us.

I. The word - Rewards - indicating the evaluation of our destiny.

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

So then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
Romans 14:10-12

Observation: Our destiny not only includes entering Heaven - it also is related to being rewarded. From these verses we now understand that we must give an account to God for how we have lived. It is possible to be ashamed before Him because of the lazy and hypocritical way we have lived the Christian life (I John 2:28). These verses remind us that there will be a day when wrongs will be made right and rewards will be given to those who deserve them.

III. Application - The Meaning of Our Destiny.

- A. The word - Comfort - indicating the anticipation of our destiny.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words. I Thess. 4:18

Observation: This verse is Paul's conclusion to a passage in which he presents the coming of Jesus Christ for His people. All facets of our involvement in the kingdom of God and in particular our future destiny - has been designed by God for our comfort and encouragement. We must keep these great truths before us. We have not yet known all that God has prepared for us. Our real life and service for God is yet ahead. We must set our mind on the future and carefully live so that we may be more and more prepared for that great day.

- B. The word - Exhortation - indicating the importance of our destiny.

And now, little children, abide in him, that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.
I John 2:28

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. I John 3:3

Observation: The kind of a wonderful life that we shall live in the future - our destiny in the kingdom of God - should make us examine our daily life. When we consider that we are the people of God and that we will live for ever in fellowship with the Lord Jesus - our petty differences, sins, goals, and values - all look strangely out of order. We must learn to abide in Christ and constantly grow in what that means.

Conclusion:

- A. This lesson has only scratched the surface of the many wonderful truths in the Bible which relate to our destiny. No amount of human words can come close to describing what is in store for us.
- B. One last thought - the Lord Jesus is waiting to eat and drink with us - in His Father's kingdom!