

## The Christian and Heaven

### Introduction

A. For most people it is almost unthinkable to believe that we would go out of existence at death. For the Christian we are assured that we will spend eternity with God, in fellowship, and in heaven. All of this is possible because of the love and work of Jesus Christ.

B. From reading the Bible it would appear that a description of Heaven is almost beyond human comprehension. However, there are many references to Heaven and these do present us with an understanding that brings great comfort.

### I. The Christian Has a Father in Heaven, Matthew 5:16.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. Psalm 73:25

After this manner therefore pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Matthew 6:9

Observation: The Christian, while completely accepted by God (Eph. 1:6), often longs for a deeper experience of God's presence. We understand that our Father is in heaven and that is where the fullness of His glory is manifested. Heaven is, therefore, more meaningful to us - our Father is there.

### II. The Christian Has Reward in Heaven, Matthew 5:12.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Observation: The message of the Bible is clear. When the Christian lives up to the light he has - he will receive reward when he gets to Heaven. God puts great value upon our honesty and daily obedience. (Matt. 6:20; 19:21; Luke 6:23; 18:22)

### III. The Christian Has Representation in Heaven, Matthew 18:10.

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones, for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven.

Observation: This unusual verse reminds us that we have guardian angels! For these angels to look upon our Father's face would indicate their attitude of waiting for orders. We are here taught that we may not offend a believer in that He is precious to God and has been given angelic protection! This should also comfort us.

### IV. The Christian's Name is Written in Heaven, Luke 10:20.

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

Observation: This simply means that we have been accepted by God, that the benefits of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ has been put to our account, and that we are among the elect. All of this is our cause of rejoicing.

V. The Christian Has a Master in Heaven, Ephesians 6:9.

And, ye masters, do the same things unto them (slaves), forbearing threatening, knowing that your Master also is in heaven, neither is there respect of persons with Him.

Observation: Christian slave-holders are here reminded that they have a Heavenly-master and should therefore be compassionate and just in how they treated their slaves. All of this teaches us of our daily responsibility to do what is right.

VI. The Christian's Citizenship is in Heaven, Philippians 3:20.

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

Observation: This verse instructs us that we are to live according to the values and priorities of Heaven - not this world (Rom. 12:1-3). A radical transformation has come to us in the New Birth. We have not only been forgiven and accepted by God - we were given a citizenship in Heaven. We are strangers and pilgrims here on earth ( I Peter 1:1) and are exhorted to live separated from the sinful culture of this world (I John 2:15-17).

VII. The Christian Has a Hope in Heaven, Colossians 1:5.

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.

Observation: In our conversation today the word "hope" is often utilized to indicate something doubtful. In the Bible the word is not that but may be defined as "the certainty of faith's expectation". It always designates that which is certain and yet future. In this verse it speaks of all that which the Bible has told the Christian to expect. We have hardly started to live 1

VIII. The Christian Has a Home in Heaven, Hebrews 11:16.

But now they desire a better county, that is, an heavenly, wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He hath prepared for them a city.

Observation: A home - in heaven - prepared for us by God Himself! This is a better future than Florida, with social security, and pension.

IX. The Christian Has Loved Ones in Heaven, Hebrews 12:22,23.

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, whch are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Victor M. Matthew