

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HEAVEN: A PROMISED PLACE

SCRIPTURE READING:

“¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ⁵Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? ⁶Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:1-6).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. According to Dr. Lee Roberson, “Heaven is a promised place. Heaven is an assured place. Heaven is a place beyond the dreams of men. I have preached about Heaven for almost eighty years. The promises of God have never lost their precious appeal. Heaven is eternity. Heaven is real. Heaven is God Himself. This present world is not all there is. We have a home with God waiting for us that can never be lost or taken away. We have a settled and certain future that is guaranteed for eternity.”
- B. In John 13 and several passages in Matthew and Luke, it referenced that the disciples were completely confused, troubled, and discouraged. Jesus had told them that He was going away, that He would soon die, that one of them would betray Him, that Satan was at work against all of them and that all of them would scatter (abandon Him).
- C. Jesus told the disciples (excluding Judas), of His impending death and departure. He told the eleven, “Whither I go, ye cannot come” (John 13:33). Jesus told Peter, “Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now” (John 13:36).
- D. The setting is very clear – Jesus prepared His disciples for the day ahead. He **comforts** them by telling them His imminent departure is to the Father’s house, with a view of preparing a place for them and then coming again for those (Christian Believers) who know the direction of the journey.
- E. All around us in the world there are reasons to be worried and troubled. Sickness and hatred, disease and difficulty are widespread. Yet these things are not new. They have been part of life ever since the Fall of man. They were present in Jesus’ day as well. And the night before He was to go to the cross, Jesus told His disciples not to worry – not because nothing would ever go wrong, but because there was a **promised place** and a **guaranteed future** waiting for them. Every person who has trusted Christ as Savior has the **Hope of Heaven** before him.

It is no wonder that the world lives with doubt and worry. They have nothing that is truly reliable and dependable. Every human source of comfort and security can be lost. Only the Divine **promise of a prepared place** offers Believers an unshakable source of peace. Only the **Hope of Heaven** lets us keep our hearts from being troubled.

- F. If heaven were by merit, it would never be heaven to me, for if I were in it, I should say, “I am sure I am here by mistake; I am sure this is not my place; I have no claim to it.” But if it be of grace and not of works, then we may walk into heaven with boldness (Charles Spurgeon).

Based on our text, we will examine four aspects of Heaven: A Promised Place:

(1) The Promise of Peace, (2) The Promise of a Prepared Place, (3) The Promise of Christ’s Return; and (4) The Promise of the Personal Way.

I. The Promise of Peace (v. 1)

Jesus told the disciples, “ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

A. Anyone who believes in God must also believe in His Son Jesus Christ.

1. Believe in God even though you can’t see Him.
 2. Continue to believe in Jesus even though you can’t see Him.
 3. Jesus Christ is God, God the Son – “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).
- Believers can have peace when they believe, trust, love, obey and serve Jesus Christ, in the midst of trials, troubles, sickness, and temptations.

B. We can have peace because:

1. Jesus is the mediator between God and man.

- “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 2:5).

2. Jesus will never forsake us.

- “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5).

3. We have access to God.

- “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom 5:2).
- Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee (Isa 26:3).
- Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee, he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee (Deut 31:6).
- Hopefully, you are at peace with Jesus. He died to set mankind free from the bondage of sin and eternal damnation.
- Keep on believing in God ... keep on believing in Jesus which results in peace that passes all understanding.

- **Hold to God's Unchanging Hand**

Time is filled with swift transition, mm, mm, None, none on earth unmoved can stand
Build your hopes on things eternal, And then hold, hold onto God's unchanging hand
Trust in Him, who will not leave you, What, whatsoever the years may bring
When your earthly friends forsake you, Still, still more closely to Him cling.

II. **The Prepared Place** (v. 2)

Jesus left this earth and went to His Father's house in heaven to prepare a place for us (Believers).

Heaven will be one glorious home with enough dwelling places to hold the entire family of God. Christians will dwell with God and Jesus forever. There will be enough room for everyone. There will be **no overcrowding** or "**No Vacancy**" signs for **Believers**.

- "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).
- ³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away (Rev 21:3-4).
- "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor 2:9).
- It is comforting to know that **Jesus has prepared Heaven** for us to be with Him.

III. **The Promised Return** (vv. 3-4)

Jesus assures us that He Himself will personally return, gather us up to Himself and escort us to our new home (Heaven).

- ¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them 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 (1 Thess 4:13-18).

- The truth of the second coming of Jesus Christ is on the lips of Christians all over the world. Jesus Christ could come back today. But even if He does not, **we know He will return** someday. “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself” (2 Tim 2:13).
- “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Heb 9:28).
- “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Rev 1:7).
- “¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven (Acts 1:10-11).
- “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet 3:10).
- “²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ 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).

IV. **The Personal Way** (vv. 5-6)

A. **Jesus the Way**

- Jesus is the only access to God and thus Salvation.
 - “⁷ Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁹ I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 19:7, 9).
- Jesus Christ is the only door that leads to Salvation.

B. **Jesus the Truth**

- Jesus reveals the truth about God, Himself, the Holy Spirit, and man.

C. **Jesus the Life**

- Jesus is the source and giver of eternal life.
 - “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).
 - “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col 1:13).

CONCLUSION:

A. Summary: The four aspects of Heaven: A Promised Place:

- **The Promise of Peace** – Jesus will never forsake you.
- **The Prepared Place** - Heaven
- **The Promised Return** – Jesus is coming back.
- **The Personal Way** – Jesus is the only way to Heaven – must know Jesus for yourself.

B. Live each day as if it were your last – It Could Be!

C. If you were to die today – Where would you spend eternity? Heaven or Hell?

- **Accept Christ** – Spend Eternity with Heaven
- **Reject Christ** – Spend Eternity in Hell

**What can take away my sins, Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
What can made me whole again, Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!**

- If you are a Christian – That is Wonderful – Share your faith with others.
- If you are **not** a Christian – I invite you to make that commitment today.

D. The ABC's of Salvation

- **A**dmit That You Are A Sinner. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom 3:23)
- **B**elieve On Christ. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”* (Acts 16:31).
- **C**onfess Your Faith. *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation”* (Rom 10:9-10).

Memory Verses:

- **“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12).
- **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”** (2 Cor 5:21).

From the Teaching Ministry of:
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“the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).