

The Preceptor Magazine

DANNY BROWN,
EDITOR

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Contents

A Nation of Fornicators	4
R.L. (Bob) Craig	
Ready Always	5
B. G. Echols	
Powerful Preaching (5)	6
Steven F. Deaton	
A Legacy of Worth	8
Dixie Bowman	
What About Our Generation?	10
Bruce Reeves	
Out of the Past -	
"That They All May Be One"	12
James R. Cope	
Are We Going To Stand?	15
Bill Collett	
Bible Preaching #11	16
Dennis C. Abernathy	
Hither Thither Yon	24
Bill Jeter	

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EDITORIAL

DANNY BROWN

HEAVEN

Is Heaven a real place? My answer is yes based on faith. I have not been there nor have I seen Heaven but I believe that such a place exists because the Bible says so. The character of faith is such that it gives reality to the things not seen (Heaven) and substance to things (Heaven) hoped for. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb 11:1) The Bible is the source of faith. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom 10:17). In fact the Bible is the only source of accurate information about heaven.

TWENTY-TWO POSITIVE FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN

Heaven is a real place. "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) Jesus refers to it as a real place.

God, the Father, is there. "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." (Mat 6:9). In fact, Heaven is His dwelling place. (Isa 63:15; Neh 1:4; Dan. 2:37,44; etc.) Deut. 26:15

The Holy Spirit's dwelling place. "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." (1 Pet 1:12). It was from heaven that the Holy Spirit was sent. (John 14:26).

Jesus Christ, the son, is in Heaven. "Jesus Christ, who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." (1 Pet 3:21b-22). Jesus descended from heaven, dwelt in the flesh, ascended back to heaven. (John 3:13; John 6:38).

Angels and Spirit Beings of God's creation are there. "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;" (Rev 5:11) Included are angels, cherubim, seraphim, archangels, the four living creatures and the 24 elders.

It is a place of Holiness. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

(Rev 21:27). There is nothing there to mar the sanctity of that place.

It is a place of Righteousness. "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Pet 3:13) Through obedience to the gospel God has made it possible for man to become righteous, that is, through the forgiveness of sins that he might dwell in that place.

It is a place of beauty. Read Revelation 21 & 22:1-5. This is a beautiful description of the city that hath foundation. God has accommodated Himself to man's understanding and described spiritual things on a material bases. It, however, is a material description of something that is spiritual. This spiritual place will be equal in beauty, majesty and glory to the description and will even go far beyond anything that mortal mind can grasp.

It is a place of Joy. "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:7) "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Mat 25:21)

It is a place for all eternity. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." (Psa 23:6) "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Mat 25:46) All will have an eternal existence. Only those in heaven will have eternal life. Life is defined as the union or state and relationship that a child of God will enjoy with God in heaven. Eternal life is that which the child of God now has in hope (Titus 1:2) and in promise (1 John 2:25), but in heaven it is a reality.

The river of the water of life is there. "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." (Rev 22:1) The river the writer has in mind has no pollution for it is clear as crystal. From John 4 we learn that Jesus is the source of living water and we must come to him to have access to the water of life.

The tree of life is there. "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was

there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." (Rev 22:2) The fruit of the tree of life was perpetual and perennial supplying the spiritual necessities for life eternal. The "tree of life" is mentioned twice in Genesis 3 referring to the tree placed in the garden of Eden from which God separated Adam, "lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever." (Gen 3:22). The spiritual counterpart to this tree is now to be found in heaven. ←

Service to be performed there. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him." (Rev 22:3) Those who are now the servants of God (Rom 6:22) will be able to continue to serve God continually, forever.

Heaven is an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively 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," (1 Pet 1:3-4) There will be no corruption in heaven. It will never change from better to worse. No rust, moth, or thieves can touch this inheritance. (Matt 6:19). Neither is it subject to contamination. It is undefiled. "Fadeth not away" suggests that it will not loose any of its original brightness and beauty throughout eternity.

A rest for the people of God. "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." (Heb 4:1) "For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 9. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." (Heb 4:8-11) Heaven will be a place where the burdens of life can be laid aside. There will be rest from all forms of suffering for there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain there. (Rev 21:4). There will be rest for the faithful from their struggle with Satan and sin.

(See **HEAVEN**, page 20)

The apostle said these men will deceive and beguile innocent souls through smooth talk and flattery. They are talented and persuasive talkers who make fine sounding arguments. Paul warned the Colossians not to be deceived by "persuasive words." (Col.2:4). Peter warned that men would use "feigned words" to exploit brethren (2 Pet.2:3). Their words and arguments will be persuasive and smooth, but, when compared with the doctrine of Christ they are shown to be counterfeit and fabrications. They may be smooth, cunning, and flattering, but in reality they are deceitful and lead to damnation.

Bible preaching knows how to discriminate between those who cause dissension and difficulties and divisions contrary to the doctrine of Christ and the honest truth seeker who may dissent with our understanding of a passage. Brethren, be on guard!

(To be continued)

Dennis C. Abernathy
P. O. Box 454
White Oak, TX 75693

HEAVEN

.... continued from page 3

God will dwell with His people there. "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." (Rev 21:3) "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." (Rev 22:4) While on earth no one has seen God at any time (1 John 4:12), but in heaven God, Himself will be dwelling with the redeemed of all the earth.

A place of light. "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." (Rev 22:5) "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." (Rev 21:23) Hell is the place of darkness or outer darkness. Here the Godhead provides light for its inhabitants.

All things will be made new. (Rev 21:5) "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for

these words are true and faithful." What a great promise. How meaningful to the child of God who bears life's burdens such as: sickness, deafness, blindness, lameness, etc.

God will glorify His children. "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." (Rom 8:18) "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" (2 Cor 4:17) By contrast the afflictions, sufferings, sacrifices, burdens, responsibilities, difficulties, etc. which are endured by the faithful today are completely out of harmony when compared with the glory to be revealed in heaven.

The crown of life is there. "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Rev 2:10) "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Tim 4:6-8) An eternal crown to be received by those who triumph over tribulation, Satan and sin by faithful adherence to the gospel of the son of God.

Worship. "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Rev 4:10-11) Worship will surely be an enjoyable characteristic of all those who abide there.

Paradise of God. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." (Rev 2:7) "How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." (2 Cor 12:3-4). The word paradise is a Persian word referring to a

beautiful garden or park. This paradise of God can only be gained through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6). The refrain of Virgil O. Stamps song "Paradise Valley" surely expresses the hope of a Christian.

Up in the beautiful Paradise valley,
By the side of the river of life,
Up in the valley, the wonderful valley,
We'll be free from all pain and all strife;
There we shall live in the rose-tinted garden,
'Neath the shade of the evergreen tree
How I long for the paradise valley,
Where the beauty of heaven I'll see.

NINE NEGATIVE FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN

"No Marriage. 'For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.' (Mat 22:30) This arrangement shows the wisdom of God. There is no further need for procreation. Man will have reached a point where, like the angels, the relationship of all will be governed by a pure and perfect love.

"No Death. 'and there shall be no more death.' (Rev 21:4) If a place existed on earth where there is no death, there would not be room enough to build all the highways, railroads, airports to accommodate the travelers to such a place.

"No Sorrow. 'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow. . .' (Rev 21:4) Where there are many reasons for sorrow here - sickness, death, disappointment, the ravages of sin - there will be none there.

"No Pain. 'neither shall there be any more pain.' (Rev 21:4) No one on earth, including the innocent babe, has not known the excruciating discomfort of pain. A godly man, lying a helpless invalid for years and suffering every wakeful moment cried out, 'O that my Father would call me home.'

"No Curse. 'And there shall be no more curse.' (Rev 22:3) Adam was cursed for eating the forbidden fruit. (Gen 3:17) Cain was cursed for slaying his brother Abel. 'And now thou are cursed from the earth.' (Gen 4:11) Since there is no sin in heaven, there can be no consequent curse.

"No Hunger. "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more.' (Rev 7:16) Though the earth can produce bountifully, still millions now are in the throes of starvation. Even in nations of plenty, many scavenge daily for food amid the foul odors and swarming flies of the garbage dumps.

"No Night. 'And there shall be no night there' (Rev 22:5) When there is distresses at night, one longs for the day, as did those with Paul in the midst of the dreadful tempest when at any moment the ship might be torn asunder. (Acts 27:29).

"No Flesh and blood. "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God..." (1 Cor 15:50) Paul describes the body that can enter the heavenly abode. 'So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.' (1 Cor 15:42-44)

"No Sin 'And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.' (Rev 21:27) Sin that has wrought havoc with man on earth will not be found in the blissful home of the redeemed." (Adapted from an article by Billy Norris, Gospel Guide, Vol XXIV, No. 9)

FIGURATIVE EXPRESSIONS TO DESCRIBE HEAVEN

The New Jerusalem. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name." (Rev 3:12) "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Rev 21:2) The word "new" is from the Greek *Kaninos* which is defined by W. E. Vine as: "new, of that which is unaccustomed or unused, not new in time, recent, but new as to form or quality, of different nature from what is contrasted as old." The *new Jerusalem* is not a restoring of the Jerusalem in Palestine, the city of David, but is of

an entirely different nature, a new creation. It is the eternal abode of him that overcometh.

A City with Foundation, whose builder and maker is God "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Heb 11:9-10) These patriarchs were willing to live on earth as strangers and pilgrims, looking forward, by faith, to the time when they would dwell in heaven, a city having permanent foundations, planned and built by God. God is its the architect and builder. He is the author and executor of the plan. Heaven is the result.

The 3rd Heaven. "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." (2 Cor 12:2-4) We sometimes speak of heaven in the sense of the space where the birds fly and where the clouds are located. We sometimes refer to the location of the sun, moon, planets and stars as being in heaven. However, the third heaven is not a physical place, it is God's dwelling place, a spiritual place.

A New Heaven and New Earth. "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Pet 3:13) "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." (Rev 21:1) With the second coming of Christ the present material world will pass away. All will be judged in the final judgment. The redeemed of all time will have a new, not renovated, dwelling place.

The Eternal Kingdom. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these

things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Pet 1:5-11) When the last enemy, death, is destroyed Jesus will deliver the kingdom, those who have submitted to the rule of heaven during their lifetime on earth, to His Father. (1 Cor 15:23-24) They will have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of which there is no end, that is, into heaven itself.

Home. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Cor 5:1) "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present (at home, ASV) with the Lord." (2 Cor 5:6-8) Home, no matter how humble, if there is love, understanding and companionship it is a wonderful place to be. Heaven in a real sense will be home for the Christian because of the relationship that will exist with Him who made, loved and redeemed us. When the tabernacle in which we now dwell returns to dust and we are privileged to dwell in a new and better tabernacle, a house not made with hands, and in that body we will be at home with God.

WHAT WILL OUR BODIES BE LIKE?

We shall be like Jesus. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2) "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Phil 3:20-21) No longer confined to the limits of a physical body. No longer subject to suffering, sickness, pain and death.

It will be an incorruptible body. "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it

is raised in incorruption:" (1 Cor 15:42) The body is now subject to corruption. That is, it can and does move from better to worse for that is what corruption is. It will surely see corruption at death as it returns to the dust from which it came. In heaven there is no corruption, moving from better to worse. The body will experience no corruption forever and ever.

It will be a glorious and powerful body. "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." (1 Cor 15:43) We know not what the body will be, but we do know that God will provide a body that is fitting. One of its characteristics will be in contrast to what it is now and the death it suffers, it will be glorious. It will be full of vitality and strength, powerful.

It will be a spiritual body. "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." (1 Cor 15:44) God will provide a body which is suitable for the spiritual world in which it is to exist. To those who are destined for heaven Paul said, "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." (1 Cor 15:49).

It will be a body that is not subject to death. "For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Cor 5:1) "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." (1 Cor 15:52-53) This new body will not be troubled with death, the new body will be eternal in nature.

PAUL'S CONCLUSION

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. 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." (Rom 8:16-18)

(to be continued)

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Contents

The Vicarious Death of Christ??	4
· Maurice Barnett	
How Do I Deal With Temptation? ...	10
Bruce Reeves	
Who Is The Man of Sin?	11
Joe Neil Clayton	
A Review of: "When Sincerity Is Not Enough" by Bill Stephens	14
Steven F. Deaton	
The Papyrus Textual Discovery	17
Luther W. Martin	
Bible Preaching #12	18
Dennis C. Abernathy	
If We Confess Our Sins	22
Matthew R. Miller	
Hither Thither Yon	28
Bill Jeter	

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EDITORIAL

DANNY BROWN

HEAVEN - 2

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal 6:8-9)

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" (2 Cor 4:17)

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 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." (Rom 8:16-18).

WHO WILL BE THERE

The Universalist says that everyone will be there:

Universalism is the doctrine of the ultimate well-being of every person. The doctrine has a pagan and a Christian form. According to the former, all will ultimately be happy because all are, by nature, the creatures and children of God. The universalistic heresy . . . in Christianity teaches that although all of the human creatures of God have fallen into sin and are lost, all will be saved through the universal redemption of Christ. (Baker's Dictionary of Theology, pg. 539).

However, the Lord does not agree with the Universalist. He said, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* (Mat 7:21-23) He also spoke concerning those, the goats who were placed on His left hand, *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"* (Mat 25:41) Of the length of their stay in this place, he said, *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment:"* (Mat 25:46)

The Calvinists contend that only those whom God chose and predestined before the foundation of the world was laid will be saved and enjoy the blessings of heaven:

The Preceptor - January 1999

III. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death.

IV. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished.

V. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of his mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving him thereunto; and all to the praise of his glorious grace. (*The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*, pg. 14-16.

The Word of God reveals the untruth of this doctrine by revealing that the Lord invited all to come unto him (Matt 11:28). Peter writes with unmistakable clarity that, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Pet 3:9) Finally in the last chapter of the Bible a universal invitation is offered: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev 22:17-18). Jesus offered himself on the cross as a sin-offering that all might have the hope of eternal life.

The Jehovah Witnesses maintain that only 144,000, of all those who have lived on the earth will enter into the city of God, heaven:

Those who are called by God to share in such heavenly service are few in number. As Jesus said, they are a 'little flock.' Years after his return to heaven, Jesus made known the exact number in a vision to the apostle John, who wrote: 'I saw, and, look! The Lamb standing upon the Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-

four thousand . . . who have been bought from the earth. (Revelation 14:1,3) The 'Lamb' referred to here is, of course, Jesus Christ; and this 'Mount Zion' is not on earth, but in heaven where Jesus is. (John 1:29; Hebrews 12:22) So the 144,000 are persons who die on earth as humans and are resurrected to heavenly life as spirit creatures, as Jesus was. (Romans 6:5) When compared with the thousands of millions of persons who live on earth, they are, indeed, a 'little flock.' (*The Truth that leads to Eternal Life*, pg. 77).

The apostle John did not say or imply that only 144,000 would be in Heaven. In fact, in Revelation 7:9 He said, "After these things I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes and peoples and tongues; standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands;" Note in particular that this multitude that no man could number are "before the throne." This is the exact same place that the Jehovah's Witness 144,000 are located, "And they sing as it were a new song before the throne . . . and no man could learn the song save the hundred and forty and four thousand," (Rev. 14:3) If the 144,000 are in heaven because they are "before the throne" so also are the great multitude that no man can number for they also are "before the throne."

The Bible is the only authoritative source to answer the question as to who will be in heaven.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; . . . And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hun-

(See **HEAVEN**, page 24)

HEAVEN

... continued from page 3

ger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Rev 7:9, 13-17)

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Pet 1:5-11)

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inas-

much as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Mat 25:31-46)

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (2 Tim 4:7-8)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Rev 14:13)

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Rev 2:10)

Thus the Bible teaches that Heaven is for those who have obeyed the gospel (Rom 1:16), by which they have received the forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ and have been added to the church, of which Jesus is the saviour (Eph 5:23-27); who add to their faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love (2 Pet 1:5-13); walking in righteousness (Matt 25:31-46); who have fought a good fight, finished the course and have kept the faith (2 Tim 4:7-8); and at the end of life they are found faithfully contending for the faith once delivered to the saints (Rev 2:10; 14:13).

There is one other very important passage I wish to call your attention to before we leave this subject:

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev 21:27)

There is such a book as the book of life. It is mentioned in Exodus 32:32-33; Malachi 3:16-17; Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 20:12; 21:27. Jesus informs us that it is in heaven (Lk 10:20). It will be opened on the day of judgement (Rev 20:12) and if your name is found therein you can truly rejoice (Rev 21:27; Lk 10:20). Each name that is in the book of life has been placed there by God (Heb 12:23; Acts 2:47). When does God place one's name there? He does not place a name there while the person is an unbeliever (Heb. 11:6; John 3:18; 8:24). Nor is it placed there the moment one believes (John 12:42-43; James 2:14-26). Neither is it placed there before a penitent believer is baptized. If it is, it is placed there before his sins are washed away (Acts 22:16), before he is saved (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21), before he has received the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and before he is in Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-29). It is possible that one's name can be blotted out of the book of life (Rev 3:5; 22:19). Here are a few passages that can help to determine if your name is still there: 1 John 2:3; 2 John 9; Rom 6:1-2; 12:1-2; 1 John 1:9; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:15; Titus 2:11-14; James 4:7-8; Heb.2:1-3; 3:12. However, if we overcome God has promised that He will not blot our name out of His book of life (Rev 3:5). (I am most indebted to Oliver Murray for the thoughts presented in this last paragraph).

Who Will Not Be There

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Rev 21:8)

The Fearful: The disciples of Christ are pictured in the Word as soldiers, who put on the armor of God: truth, righteousness, salvation, the gospel of peace, faith, prayer and the word of God;

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

If you would like your e-mail address to be on this list, please send it to us.

PRECEPTOR: Preceptor@wberkley@hiline.net
DENNIS C. ABERNATHY: dca11@juno.com
WARREN E. BERKLEY: wberkley@hiline.net
CHARLES BOSHART: cboshart@aol.com
SCOTT BROWN: tbrown0757@aol.com
LARRY A. BUNCH: lonewolf@atoka.net
TOL BURK: Tolstx@aol.com
GARRETH L. CLAIR: GLClair@aol.com
ARNOLD COCHRAN: utopian@lcc.net
MIKE CORNWELL: mcornwell@clnk.com
R. L. (BOB) CRAIG: bobola@swbell.net
JIMMY CREWS: jimmycrews@cclufkin.com
JIM R. EVERETT: jimever@juno.com
JEFF FILE: jfile@salisbury.net
FRED E. GORE: fegore@juno.com
HAL HAMMONS: halhammons@juno.com
BOBBY HOLMES: BHolmes180@aol.com
MIKE HUGHES: macmike@netnitco.net
TONY MAUCK: maucknot@aol.com
ROBERT McDONALD: robert733@juno.com
PAUL PRICE: paulprice@juno.com
TONY RIPLEY: teentalk2@internetmci.com
HEATH ROGERS: hrogers@bullitt.net
PETER SCALISE: peterscalise@cclufkin.com
WILLIAM C. SEXTON: wmessenger@juno.com
CARLIS R. SCROGGINS: crscroggins@juno.com
BENJAMIN M. SHROPSHIRE: bshrop@stlnet.com
TRUMAN SMITH: r.2a-r2a@juno.com
JACK THOMPSON: jackthompson@juno.com
STEVE WILLIS: Swillis@memlane.com

IN SOUTH AFRICA

DOUG BAUER: monkey@pixie.co.za
ROBERT BUCHANAN: robertbu@global.co.za
ASHLEY GOOSEN: ashleyg@fast.co.za
HENDRIK JOUBERT: hjoubert@global.co.za
LESLIE MAYDELL: lmaydell@fast.co.za
GENE TOPE: genetope@mweb.co.za
SCOTT TOPE: zululand@fast.co.za
PAUL K. WILLIAMS: paulw@netactive.co.za

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and courageously fights the good fight of faith against the world-rulers of this darkness, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places and "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor 10:3-5) (see also Eph 6:12-18; 1 Tim 6:12). On the other hand there are those who shrink from standing up for the truth of God because of fear of one sort or another or for one reason or another. God said, "But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him." (Heb 10:38).

The Unbelieving: Without faith it is impossible to please God. There is abundant evidence in logic, nature, and especially the Bible, that God is. The gospels present sufficient evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God. The atheist, the infidel along with those in whom there is an evil heart of unbelief who fall away from the lord (Heb 4:12) will be like the man who was without the wedding garment, that is, they will be without an excuse. Someone has said that some may be condemned as an atheist or an infidel, but there will be no atheists or infidels in Hell, for all who are there will know that God is and that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God.

The Abominable: The Bible speaks of many things that are an abomination to God, such as: a person who is not willing to comply with that which is right or reasonable (Prov 3:32) a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, he that soweth discord among brethren (Prov 6:16); he that turns away from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination (Prov 28:9) etc. Those who believe and practice the things that are an abomination to God are abominable. This surely would include those who are immoral and spiritually corrupt.

The Whoremonger (fornicators ASV): Those who engage in fornication which is defined as "illicit sexual intercourse." (Vine), "prop. of illicit sexual intercourse in general" (Thayer). This is a general word which would include adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, etc. It is warned against repeatedly in the New Testament: Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor 5:9ff, 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19; Eph 5:3-5; Col 3:5ff; et al.

The Sorcerers: This refers to those who use drugs, spells, enchantments, potions, amulets, or witchcraft to deceive and bring under one's control or to accomplish some end. Hailey also notes. "Astrologers and prognosticators, peddlers of various narcotics, and false teachers who claim to have miraculous powers and thereby bring the unwary under their control, are no less sorcerers than those of John's day." (Commentary on Revelation, p. 410). Simon used sorcery to bolster his claim and deceive the people into believing that he was some great one (Acts 8:9-10).

The Idolaters: Those who worship gods other than the God who created all things, in whom we live and move and have our being. These gods are no gods in reality for they are the creation of man's imagination and the idols created by the art and devise of man can neither see, hear, smell, eat, think or speak. They are only wood, stone or perhaps a grove of trees. This is all they are for there is no god for them to represent. It is possible for one to be an idolater without a wood or stone image. Anything that takes the place that God is to occupy in the heart is idolatry. (see Eph 5:5; Col 3:5).

All Liars: A lie is a falsehood. The liar is one who deceives others into believing a falsehood. It is usually accomplished by the use of the tongue or by action. It can in some instances be accomplished by silence when one should speak but holds his tongue allowing one to be deceived. The same may be said of the lack of action when action is needed to prevent one being deceived into believing a falsehood.

Along with these the Devil, that old serpent that deceived Eve, and his angels will not be in heaven. (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:10). Neither will the angels which kept not their first estate. (Jude 6; 2 Pet 2:4)

WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

The Bible reveals that there are two rewards after the judgment: Heaven and Hell I just do not want to be cast into the lake of fire along with the Devil, his angels and all the wicked of the earth!

Years ago, should I have been asked, "Why do you want to go to heaven?" the above would have been my first and foremost answer. It is still true, but not the main reason. When I began to realize

all that our Heavenly Father had planned for mankind; How He with great patience gradually developed the scheme of redemption; How he was willing to send Jesus, that He might make possible the salvation of man by becoming the sin-sacrifice necessary for such salvation and then to see the manifold wisdom revealed in the church purchased by the blood of the lamb and to be a partaker of the spiritual blessings in Christ; I could not help but see His love for His creation. I now serve Him, not because I fear hell, but out of love. I want to do His will here. In the future I want to be where He is and to do His will there. I want to go to heaven to be with the Father, the Lord and the redeemed of all the ages.

PAPYRUS TEXTUAL DISCOVERY

.... continued from page 17

tained that *kuriakos* was a word invented by the Apostle Paul. He, too, thought of *kuriakos*, only in religious terms.

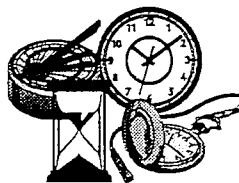
The foregoing views of Clavis and Julicher prevailed before the discovery of the papyri fragments in the late 1890's.

In some pagan inscriptions, *kuriakos* has been used in reference to a land-owner or a political ruler (a lord), but such an application demonstrates the common meaning of the word. In other instances, it referred to the Emperor.

The pagans observed a day called "Sebaste" - meaning the "first day of the month" or "Emperor's day." (*Revue des Etudes Grecques*, vi. (1893), page 159). The Christians observed the Lord's day, *he kuriake hemera*. (See Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10). Under the Law of Moses, given to Israel, the Jews were commanded to observe the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath (Deut. 5:14): The Sabbath day was therefore a Jewish holy day, but its observance was brought to an end among those who accepted Christ as the long awaited Messiah (Col. 2:14).

The continuing discovery of additional New Testament papyri fragments, provides added evidence of the dependability of the New Testament text.

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES



..... continued from cover

the sake of dishonest gain," or subverting whole households, it is thoughtless and perilous to give them the floor. Elders are to use sound doctrine to deal with these kind of people.

If the expression "open pulpit" means that anybody should be able to get up and say anything, this passage in Titus plainly rules out such a concept. This would be like shepherds letting anybody come in and feed anything to the sheep!

Especially in time of crisis, controversy and contention, it is essential for good elders to hold fast the faithful Word and do all they can to silence those who would draw away the disciples. Yet, after a division or withdrawal, the complaint is often made: "We were not able to speak. We are not given access to the congregation. We were muzzled! There was no open pulpit."

May God bless and strengthen men to become qualified to be elders. May we support and encourage men who hold fast to the faithful Word and stop the mouths of gainsayers.

Warren E. Berkley
2720 Atlanta Dr.
Pharr, Tx. 78577

e-mail: wberkley@hiline.net

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