

OUR ULTIMATE HEAVENLY HOME

Text: Rev. 21:3-5

INTRO: A few years ago in Exton, PA, we had a lectureship on the home & family. In making arrangements for that series, it dawned on me that there could be no more appropriate way to conclude such a series than to center in on our ultimate heavenly home.

On further reflection, I decided that since all our sermons & lessons & service to God likewise center in on the goal of reaching heaven when our life on earth is finished, that same lesson is appropriate for closing out a series of gospel meetings, no matter what subjects have been covered. On the basis of that reasoning, I share with you some thots about our ultimate heavenly home.

I. GOD IS THE FATHER OF ALL MEN & ANGELS BY CREATION. LK 3:38; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7.

Thus says the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth & forms the spirit of man within him (Zech 12:1).

Acts 17:26, 28

We have had human fathers who corrected us, & we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits & live? (Heb 12:9).

NOTE: At the beginning, God, the Father of our spirits established the home/family relationship for our good, Gen 2:18; 1:28. Companionship, procreation. The home/family relationship has also proven advantageous in the realms of security, protection, guidance, & stability (mental, emotional, & spiritual).

II. GOD SEEKS TO BE OUR FATHER IN STILL ANOTHER SENSE--WITHIN A SPECIAL SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP.

- A. This special spiritual relationship is manifested in Christ's church which is the house/family of God. 1 Tim 3:15
I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
from whom the whole family in heaven & earth is
named. (Eph 3:14-15).
- B. This spiritual relationship is viewed from many different
perspectives: a kingdom with Christ as King, a flock of
sheep with Christ as Shepherd, a building with Christ
as Foundation, etc.
- C. When this spiritual relationship is viewed as a family, God
is the Father, Christ is the elder Brother, each Christian
is a joint-heir with Christ. Two figures are used to
illustrate our entrance into this spiritual family.
1. The new birth. Nicodemus, a devout Jew, that being
a direct descendent of Abraham in the flesh
would insure him a place in the kingdom of God
when it came. Jesus corrected him. If the
kingdom were fleshly, earthly, temporal, his be-
ing a fleshly descendent of Abraham would per-
haps have been enough. But not so. John 18:36;
3:3-5; Titus 3:5; Rom 6:3-5.
 2. Paul used the figure of adoption to show how those
who had never been descendants of Abraham
could be his sons by faith. READ GAL 3:26-29;
4:4-6.
 3. In still another illustration, Paul compared becoming
a Christian with a branch being grafted onto a
tree, Rom 11:17-14.
- D. Being in God's spiritual family, the church, does not really
change our duties & responsibilities in our physical
family relationships, but it does tend to help us be more
aware of them.
1. The wife is to be a helper to her husband. A wife
who is a Christian will help her husband go to heaven.

No better help!

2. The husband is to honor his wife, 1 Pet 3:7. Word includes his provision & support for her needs. Honorarium. A husband who is a Christian will provide an atmosphere that will help his wife & children live lives that are acceptable to God.
3. Children are to be obedient, respectful & pleasing to their parents. Nothing could be more pleasing to godly parents than a sincere conviction that their children are living lives that are acceptable to God.
4. Christians need to be aware that our spiritual relationship is jeopardized when we ignore God's will with regard to our physical family relationships.

1 Pet 3:7, prayers hindered
Titus 2:4-5, blaspheme word of God
Gal 5:19, adultery, fornication & such sins will
cause folks to have no inheritance in
heaven.

III. HEAVEN IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN.

- A. When we were young & bumped our heads, mother used to sit us on her knee, hold us close, kiss the sore spot & wipe away our tears. 30 minutes later, it may all have to be done over again. On our journey to heaven, we'll get some bumps & bruises along the way, but God will... And we'll never hurt again.
- B. When we were young & went to our beds late at night, we'd tread lightly but swiftly to get in bed before some "monster" would reach out from under the bed to grab us--but we knew Dad was in the next room, so we were able to fall asleep in a few minutes. No night

there! Rev 21:25.

C. Even as adults we lock our cars in our own driveways, lock & bolt our doors & windows, set the alarms, etc. There the gates will never need to be shut & no thieves will enter. READ REVELATION 19:6-9

CONCLUSION: Gov. Jimmie Davis of Louisiana, made famous: "Ya know, some of the fondest mem'ries of my childhood are woven around suppertime, when mother used to call from the back steps of the old home place, "Come on home, now son, it's supper time."

My, how I'd love to hear that once again. But ya know, time has woven for me a realization that's even more thrilling--that someday we'll be gathered around that supper table up there for the greatest suppertime of them all, with our Lord. I can almost hear the call now, coming from the portals of heaven: "Come on home, now son, it's supper time." And I'm going home at last.

Exton, PA, April 26, 1987

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 14, 1987 (meeting)

La Porte, TX, April 8, 1988 (meeting)

Liberty Hill, TX, June 4, 1989 (meeting)

Eastside, Indianapolis, IN, April 27, 1990 (meeting)

Blue Ridge, VA, October 7, 1990 (meeting) 2 restored

Wrightsville, PA, March 31, 1991

Tri-State, Ashland, KY, June 28, 1991 (meeting)

Shippensburg, PA, September 25, 1991 (meeting)

Imhoff Ave., Port Arthur, TX, August 6, 1993 (meeting)

Westview, Athens, AL, May 19, 1996 (meeting)

Wonsley Drive, Austin, TX, April 10, 1998 (meeting)