

Focus



Our nation is plagued with crime, corruption, immorality, and ungodliness. With economic uncertainty, rising health costs, declining values in our schools, and a lack of integrity, both in the business world and in our political system, it comes as no surprise that many in our society have a gloomy outlook towards the future. **However**, the Christian must not lose sight of what awaits. The writer of Hebrews states, **"For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come."** (Hebrews 13:14) We also read, **"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."** (Colossians 3:1-2) These verses should serve as reminders to the Christian not to lose heart but rather focus upon the hope that is set before us even as the circumstances around us may be declining. Reflection upon these verses allows the Christian to meet the challenges of the present while focusing to that future home in heaven. When was the last time you focused your attention upon heaven?

What will heaven be like? The scriptures answer our question in the following descriptive ways:

Heaven is a place where one will be in the presence of God the Father and Jesus our Savior.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am there you may be also." (John 14:3)

"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light." (Revelation 21:22-23)

Heaven is a place where there will be no more death, sorrow, or pain.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

There will be no evil in heaven.

"But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (Revelation 21:27)

One will receive an imperishable body in heaven.

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." (Philippians 3:20-21)

". . . We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." (1st Corinthians 15:51-53)

Heaven is eternal.

"To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away reserved in heaven for you." (1st Peter 1:4)

Therefore, the next time you are tempted to be overwhelmed by the circumstances of the day, remember this world is not our home. Do you recall the words of the song we sing — **This World Is Not My Home** (page 496)? The first part of the first stanza states, *"This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue . . ."* Meditate upon the joy that awaits the Christian. However, don't forget that heaven is a prepared place for those who are obedient to the

teachings of Christ. **"And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."** (Hebrews 5:9)

Conclusion

Let us develop the habit of being focused to what awaits the faithful child of God. (Philippians 1:21 and 1st Corinthians 15:58) This will enable us to face the varied circumstances of life. Remember what Paul states, **"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."** (Romans 8:18)

* * * * * Chuck Kozens

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* **Falling down doesn't make you a failure, but staying down does.**