

# HEAVEN

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YOUR ETERNAL HOME

*BOOKLET 10*

*"EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LIVING" SERIES*

*BY*

*RON G. CHRISTIAN*

#10

*"HEAVEN OUR ETERNAL HOME!"*

*TABLE OF CONTENTS*

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Title</i>	
1.	<b>"HOW SHOULD I IMAGINE MY FUTURE ETERNAL HOME?"</b>	<b>4</b>
2.	<b>"WILL I RECEIVE ANY REWARDS FOR SERVING CHRIST?"</b>	<b>9</b>
3.	<b>"DARE I ANTICIPATE HEAVEN AS MY OWN ETERNAL HOME?"</b>	<b>14</b>
4.	<b>"SHOULD I CONSIDER THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST FOUNDATIONAL IN MY LIFE?"</b>	<b>17</b>
5.	<b>"WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL MY UNFULFILLED ASPIRATIONS WHEN I DIE?"</b>	<b>20</b>
6.	<b>"AFTER MY PHYSICAL BODY DIES, CAN I ANTICIPATE RECEIVING A NEW DEATHLESS BODY?"</b>	<b>23</b>
7.	<b>"FROM A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING WHAT CAN I ANTICIPATE EXPERIENCING AFTER I DIE?"</b>	<b>28</b>
8.	<b>"SHOULD I RELY UPON THE BIBLICALLY - BASED DESCRIPTION OF HEAVEN?"</b>	<b>32</b>

- 9. "WHAT WILL BE THE AUTHENTIC PASSPORT FOR ME - AND FOR EVERY ONE ELSE - TO GET TO HEAVEN?" 37**
- 10. "DOES GOD GENUINELY DESIRE FOR ME AND FOR EVERY OTHER PERSON TO GO TO HEAVEN?" 43**
- 11. "IS DEATH A FRIEND OR A FOE TO ME?" 49**
- 12. "AS AN IDENTIFIABLE PERSON WILL I CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN HEAVEN?" 51**

1.

*"HOW SHOULD I IMAGINE MY FUTURE  
ETERNAL HOME?"*

*A few years ago, my wife's mother had a most wonderful experience. The following is the account of that experience:*

*"I find it difficult to share publicly a precious experience that God gave to me quite a few years ago. I had lost my father, and my mother lived alone for a few years. Her health was not good and she finally consented to surgery. We had brought her home from the hospital and I was staying with her.*

*"One night I had checked many times to see if she was resting. I had gone to sleep, but suddenly was wide-awake. I got out of bed thinking I had heard mother. I went to the door and I saw my father standing, looking in on mother. I said, 'Don't waken her dad, she has been so sick.' He turned his head and looked at me. He said so quietly, 'I'm not going to waken her. I just wanted to see that she is all right. I want to go back.' He turned and without seeming to walk, he was across the living room and through the windows. I watched him*

*cross the yard and, although it was very dark, I saw him as he crossed the small pasture."*

*"I was not frightened, but was filled with a beautiful peace. I do not mourn for my dad, though I still miss his gentleness and concern. I am sure that at the resurrection we will have bodies we will recognize."*

**TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!**

*HEAVEN - Described as a glorious city, and likened to pure gold and clear glass.*

*HEAVEN - God's dwelling place prepared for those earthlings who love and who serve Christ, a place of holiness and beauty and unity and perfection and joy.*

*HEAVEN - A place where there are no tears of sorrow and grief, and no sickness or pain or death. A place where there is no sin, temptation, trials, or hard tests.*

*HEAVEN - A place where there is no need for the sun or the moon, for Christ Himself is the source of all light.*

*HEAVEN - No night! No aging! No separation from those we love.*

*HEAVEN - A place where the focus of all is on Christ alone.*

*HEAVEN - A place where there is NO competition, no comparison among jealous-ridden persons, all of whom are seeking selfish glory and praise and applause.*

*HEAVEN - A place where all serve each other with Holy Love and Gladness.*

*HEAVEN - A place of perfect harmony and unity where 'all is for each, and each is for all'. Serving each other without the physical limitations of a human body.*

*HEAVEN - A place of joyful singing, happy serving and constant learning. A place where all the saints will learn from one another and all will learn forever from the 'Master Teacher' Himself—the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*HEAVEN - A place where each will become more like God forever - without, of course, ever actually becoming gods.*

*HEAVEN - the excitement of eternal growth in knowledge and in holy wisdom and understanding! No longer seeing reality as if peering through a hazy glass, but instead seeing reality with your spiritual eyes as a result of being given a 'spiritual body'.*

*HEAVEN - A place where we will no longer walk by faith, but a place where we shall behold Christ, face to face in all His glory!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"Dearest Father in Heaven, it seems too good to be true, but I affirm your intention to take me someday to be with you forever! To be with you in a place of indescribable beauty, and unending joy, peace and love! To be with you in a bodily (localized) form, far surpassing the form of my physical body, but very similar to the form that is so familiar to me on earth. A spiritual (resurrection) body, patterned after the body of the Resurrected Christ! "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard what God hath prepared for those who love the Lord." (1st Corinthians 2:8-10) And all the barriers to fellowship (often experienced on earth) will be gone! Sweet fellowship with no competition and no comparisons between the heavenly citizens! All for each, and each for all! Enjoying the vast crowds of worshipping saints, but never feeling 'lost in the crowd'! Constantly learning more about God's wisdom and knowledge, and appreciating the unique contribution of each of the heavenly citizens!*

*No pride or 'fanfare' in the thoughts and motives and actions of any celestial person, but rather, deep humility and gladness in the desire of all to serve one's heavenly*

*'brothers and sisters'! Getting acquainted with more and more 'redeemed souls', and thanksgiving and appreciation for every truly 'unique' person! Most of All, Praise, Worship and Adoration to the Triune God Forever! HEAVEN!"*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*Jesus said a short time before His death that He was going back to heaven, where He would prepare a place for His followers to live with Him FOREVER! He has a place for you, and (with your cooperation) He is preparing you for that place! Live a Christ-Centered Life, and 'reach out in love' to those around you! Heaven is a place where nothing dwells but Love and Kindness and Integrity (trust) and Holiness (separation from all sin and wickedness) and perfect Peace (no discord and arguing and divisions). If you are living with these virtues on earth, it will be so 'natural' (although glorious) for you someday to slip out of your physical body, to enter through the Gates of that Celestial City. What a glorious day that will be, for you - you who have sought to live a truly 'SANCTIFIED LIFE'!*

2.

*"WILL I RECEIVE ANY REWARDS FOR SERVING CHRIST?"*

*Yes, You Will Receive Many Rewards for Serving Christ! You do not serve Christ because you are seeking some type of 'external rewards', for the greatest reward you can receive from God is God's forgiveness and His peace—the wonderful internal rewards! To know that you are 'right with God', and to know that you love Him supremely (although imperfectly), and to know that you are at peace with your fellowmen—there is no greater reward that you could enjoy here on earth!*

*However, God is not 'timid' to tell you that you (a faithful servant of Christ) will receive abundant rewards (recognition and honor) while on earth, followed by eternal rewards hereafter! God is not a 'debtor' to any person! He lavishes His rewards upon His faithful followers—rewards that God, in His wisdom, knows what is best for each individual disciple!*

*Of course, we mere mortals are very limited in our understanding of 'the mind of the Almighty', but the Bible teaches that*

*followers of Christ (humble Christians) will someday share Christ's rule in heaven!*

**TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!**

*"Or know ye not that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?" (1 Corinthians 6:2a, 3a)*

*Because God loves 'individuality' and He loves amazing variety (as seen in Nature), it seems very likely that God will have a special and unique and personal 'role' (job or assignment or place) for each person in The Heavenly Kingdom. The Bible indicates that God's love is shared with all persons corporately in heaven, but that also each person in heaven will enjoy God's love in a Special way. Each heavenly inhabitant will have some special 'gift' (contribution) to share with all the others in that heavenly mansion! The Bible declares that "it has not even entered into the mind of man what God has prepared for those who love Him!" God loves to lavish His gifts upon His faithful children—both in time and in eternity.*

*Of course, there are times, as in the case of Jesus' suffering disciples: Then answered Peter and said unto him, "Lo, we have left all, and followed thee; what then shall we have? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye who have followed me, in the resurrection when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath left houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit eternal life. But many shall be last that are first, and first that are last." (Matthew 19:27-30)*

*When the burdens become heavy, and the losses become great, and the persecutions become severe, and the pain becomes deeply felt, and the mind becomes confused, and the loneliness becomes intense (and so much more) - when all the faithful followers of Christ seem to bear no spiritual 'fruit'! Trials, Tests and Temptations are an integral part in living for Christ.*

*'Though wrong seems so strong, God is the Ruler yet!' God is the Rewarder of those*

*who diligently seek Him! God is the great Compensator, in debt to no man! God's final lavish rewards will be given to god's suffering children!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"O Thou God of Righteousness, Integrity, Justice, and Holiness, enable me, by your sanctifying Holy Spirit, to gradually become more like You in the possession and in the expression of all of those characteristics (and many other godly traits). Enable me to live a quiet life, full of peace, and to be respectful in all things. Teach me, little by little, to better understand the very 'mind of Christ' - to possess godly attitudes, patterned after the revealed Life of Christ, who is the most beautiful person in the Universe! Help me to serve you because you deserve to be served, not because of some reward, which I will receive for serving you. In Jesus' name! Amen!"*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION:**

*Remember that God is a Great Rewarder—in time and in Eternity! He loves to lavish gifts upon His faithful children! The Bible says that God wants you also to be a 'gift-giver' to needy persons! The Bible says*

*that if you 'give a cold drink of water to a child', you will not go without your reward from your loving God!*

3.

*"DARE I ANTICIPATE HEAVEN AS MY  
OWN ETERNAL HOME?"*

*Joy comes from realizing what God is going to do for one in the future!*

*Regardless of how dark the present circumstances may sometimes seem, the future for the believer is bright with joyful prospects.*

*Jesus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you". How heavenly to have God's constant presence! That is the source of perpetual joy - the joy that is not dependent upon circumstances*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The more we entertain thoughts of Jesus and His Word throughout our daily routine, the more our lives will be filled with joy! Jesus is our joyful Companion in life. He lightens every burden, for Christ turns our burdens into blessings.*

*In his autobiography, written when he was 83 years old, E. Stanley Jones wrote, "Life to me has not been a struggle. It has been, and is, a Song. The struggle has been only when I have departed from His Way."*

*Heaven is a glorious future reality for the true believer, an anticipation that brings indescribable joy!*

*Every believer will see Jesus, face to face. All the tears will be wiped away. Each believer will receive his new resurrection body, and he will Reign with Christ Forever!*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"Father, thank you for being such a gracious God, a God whose joy is our joy, whose purpose is—Our Salvation, whose Heavenly home is our Inheritance! Praise and thanksgiving, forever! Amen!"*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

*It is true that Jesus left this earth to go back to heaven where He is preparing a Special, Wonderful, and Unique 'place' for you, and it is also true that Jesus (through the Holy Spirit) is in the long process of preparing you for that glorious home! "Eye hath not seen, nor has ear heard, what God has prepared for those who love Him!" Indescribable beauty, unalloyed joy, perfect health, uncomplicated fellowship with no competition, corporate, and wholehearted worship by the hosts of heavenly citizens, total investment of many talents in restful*

*work, and much more!*

4.

*"SHOULD I CONSIDER THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST FOUNDATIONAL IN MY LIFE?"*

*Among the religions of the world, Christianity is unique because Christianity alone rests upon the foundation of the Resurrection.*

*It is important to understand that the entire superstructure of Christianity—faith, hope, justice, immortality, transformation — rests upon the foundation of the Resurrection.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*If God's love was best demonstrated on the cross, then God's power was best demonstrated by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead!*

*The death and resurrection of Jesus are two parts of one whole. The Cross without the resurrection would be great heroism at its best and great tragedy at its worst!*

*What is the foundation of Christianity? The simple and obvious answer is Christ. "For other foundations can no man lay that is laid, which is Jesus Christ". (1 Corinthians 3:11)*

*The Foundation of Christianity is not an ethical creed or the memory of a religious reformer. Rather, the Foundation of Christianity is a living Savior — a 'Savior' because Jesus' death was redemptive, and 'living' because Jesus arose from the dead.*

*TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, I am thankful that you raised your Son to life, thus proving to the world that Jesus is the very one whom He claimed to be—the sinless one over whom all the powers of sin and Satan and hell cannot have ultimate control. Good is stronger than evil; justice is stronger than deception; love is stronger than hatred; life is stronger than death; joy is stronger than sorrow; light is stronger than darkness; God is stronger than the Evil One! The empty tomb assures those who believe in Jesus that they too will be raised from the dead! If Christ did not rise from the dead, then death had the 'final word', and death proved to be stronger than life! If Christ did not overcome death, then He has no power to give man victory over death, regardless of how much faith a man puts in Christ. Yes, I affirm all of these statements of truth, dearest God, about the resurrection of your Son! Belief in the resurrection*

*of Your Son is the very foundation of my faith. Without the resurrection of Christ, I certainly could not outlive my physical death—and life for me would be hopeless and worthless! I base all my life upon Christ's resurrection! Thank you for raising your Son from the grave!" Amen!"*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*Your only hope is found in Christ! Place your faith (trust) in the One person who is totally trustworthy—Jesus, the Resurrected Lord!*

5.

*"WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL MY UNFUL-  
FILLED ASPIRATIONS WHEN I DIE?"*

*There is within the breast of every man a longing for Immortality!*

*Man is born with a thirst for infinity. Man is overbuilt for this world, and his aspirations call for a fulfillment that is beyond the scope of time.*

*The very existence of aspirations is a clue that man is not merely a product of nature, but that he is a spiritual creature whose true greatness is found in the supernatural.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*If man's aspirations are so real to him and these aspirations cannot possibly be fulfilled within the short span of a lifetime, then the very presence of the growing aspirations points to a fulfillment beyond the confines of time, a fulfillment that reaches into eternity.*

*Nevertheless, if aspirations are to be fulfilled in eternity, there must be a life hereafter. However, there can be no life hereafter if Christ did not rise from the dead.*

*Therefore, Christ's resurrection is neces-*

*sary as the foundation for the fulfillment of man's deepest aspirations.*

***TIME FOR A PERSONALIZE PRAYER!***

*"O God, when I consult my own best reasoning, and when I carefully study the Word of God (Bible), and when I carefully listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, I conclude that there is hope (even certainty) that my God-implanted 'aspirations' in life are going to be fulfilled - partially on this earth and completely in heaven! It is not all of life to live, nor all of death to die, for there is a glorious eternity where all deep aspirations will be fulfilled! You, O God, have taught me the following realities about life: Man spends his entire lifetime, striving to grow, working to create, and laboring to accumulate wisdom and knowledge. Then man dies! A thousand unfulfilled dreams! Does death end it all? Is there no future opportunity for man's deepest longings to be fulfilled? Without the resurrection of Jesus, there is no resurrection for man, and without a resurrection for man, there is no opportunity for life's deepest aspirations to find fulfillment! The satisfaction of man's deepest aspirations in the supernatural, immortal realm is only made possible because of Christ's resurrection. Thank You*

*for my God-given aspirations, and for the fulfillment of them!"*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*Because your lungs are made for air, your stomach is made for food, your eyes are made for beauty, and your ears are made for music, you can logically conclude that your deepest aspirations of your spirit are created by God to be fulfilled by God in eternity! Because Christ lives, your aspirations will not die!*

6.

*"AFTER MY PHYSICAL BODY DIES,  
CAN I ANTICIPATE RECEIVING A NEW  
DEATHLESS BODY?"*

*Resurrection of the Personality (that part of you that lives on forever).*

*That which identifies you as you! That part of you that gives you uniqueness! Will the personality of that one who was so dear to you, continue to live in eternity? Christianity declares that the personality of the Christians will live forever!*

*Why should there be a 'Resurrection of the Human Body'? Because the body is created by God and is considered sacred to God. Because to be spirits alone would leave us incomplete. A body is necessary to express one's personality. The personality lives on forever, but a new body is needed as a vehicle of expression for the personality.*

*Because Jesus arose bodily, the disciples saw him, "...and that he appeared to Cephas; then to the twelve; then he appeared to above five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remains*

*until now, but some are fallen asleep;" (1 Corinthians 15:5, 6), they touched Him (Thomas the doubter), and Jesus even prepared breakfast for them one morning: "When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread." (John 21:9ff) He could go through closed doors; He could go instantly from place to place.*

*Because the Bible declares that Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection! "But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first fruits of them that are asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20) Jesus' body was identifiable after the resurrection. Same, too, our bodies will be recognizable and identifiable in the resurrection.*

*1 Corinthians 15 teaches that God can and does preserve the identity of the small grain seed, which is planted and dies. How much more will he preserve the identity of the creatures He loves best! If there is distinctiveness in the different animals and in the celestial bodies (sun, moon, stars), will there not be continuing distinctiveness in the form the resurrection bodies our personalities take.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Differences in the Resurrection Body from the Earthly Body. The earthly Body is perishable; the resurrection body is imperishable. While we are living, we are gradually dying! As humans, we have a strong instinct for self-preservation. We fight for life to the very end! We try to preserve our lives, and to postpone death. We try to make ourselves look younger. We avoid going to funerals, hoping to escape the reality of physical death. We have Longevity Centers of Health!*

*But the resurrection body is not subject to change, decay, or death. The former things of earth will all pass away and the new order of eternal things will be ushered in! "When we've been there 10,000 years, bright shining as the sun; we've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we've first begun!"*

*Earthly body ends up in the dishonor of death, but the resurrected body is raised in glory. Earthly body sown in weakness, but spiritual body will rise in Power.*

*Your spiritual body will be raised in Power (powerful body and mind, not subject to the weaknesses of earthly existence caused by*

*decay and disease!) (If angels are strong in their spiritual bodies, won't resurrected believers also be strong and healthy?)*

*Earthly Body is sown a natural body; resurrected body will be a spiritual body.*

**TIME FOR A PERSONALIZE PRAYER:**

*"O God, when I consult my own best reasoning, and when I carefully study the Word of God (Bible), and when I carefully listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, I conclude that there is hope (even certainty) that my God-implanted 'aspirations' in life are going to be fulfilled—partially on this earth and completely in heaven! It is not all of life to live, nor all of death to die, for there is a glorious eternity where all deep aspirations will be fulfilled! You, O God, have taught me the following realities about life: Man spends his entire lifetime, striving to grow, working to create, and laboring to accumulate wisdom and knowledge.*

*Then man dies! A thousand unfulfilled dreams! Does death end it all? Is there no future opportunity for man's deepest longings to be fulfilled? Without the resurrection of Jesus, there is no resurrection for man, and without a resurrection for man, there is no opportunity for life's deepest*

*aspirations to find fulfillment! The satisfaction of man's deepest aspirations in the supernatural, immortal realm is only made possible because of Christ's resurrection. Thank You for my God-given aspirations, and for the fulfillment of them!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION:*

*Because your lungs are made for air, and your stomach is made for food, your eyes are made for beauty, and your ears are made for music, you can logically conclude that your deepest aspirations of your spirit are created by God to be fulfilled by God in eternity! Because Christ lives, your aspirations will not die!*

7.

*"FROM A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING  
WHAT CAN I ANTICIPATE EXPERIENC-  
ING AFTER I DIE?"*

*HEAVEN is described as a glorious city and likened to pure gold and clear glass.*

*HEAVEN is God's dwelling place prepared for those earthlings who love and who serve Christ, a place of Holiness and Beauty and Unity and Perfection and Joy.*

*HEAVEN is a place where there are NO tears of sorrow and grief, and no sickness or pain or death. A place where there is NO sin, temptation, trials, or hard tests.*

*HEAVEN is a place where there is NO need for the sun or the moon, for Christ Himself is the source of all light. In heaven, there is NO night. There is No aging. No separation from those we love!*

*HEAVEN is a place where the focus of all is on Christ alone. A place where there is no competition or comparison among jealous-ridden persons, all of whom are seeking selfish glory and praise and applause. A place where all serve each other with holy love and gladness. A place of perfect har-*

*mony and unity where 'all is for each, and each is for all'. Serving each other without the physical limitations of a human body.*

*HEAVEN is a place of joyful singing and happy serving and constant learning. A place where all the saints will learn from one another and all will learn forever from the Master Teacher Himself—the Lord Jesus Christ!*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Heaven is a place where each will become more like God forever - without, of course, ever actually becoming gods. The excitement of eternal growth in knowledge, holy wisdom, and understanding! No longer seeing reality as if peering through a hazy glass, but instead seeing reality with our spiritual eyes, because of being given a 'spiritual body'.*

*Heaven is a place where we will no longer walk by faith, but a place where we shall behold Christ, face to face in all His Glory! Death for the believer is like going from the basement of the house to the top story of the house. Death allows the Christian to reach his destination. Death for the Christian is like crossing the "finish line" after a long marathon.*

Death is not a loss for the believer; death is the doorway into eternal life in heaven. Paul wrote, *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain!"* Christians are only pilgrims on the planet! Dying allows the believer to 'go home'!

John 14:1-3 reads, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

#### TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!

"O Lord, you have assured me that the sins I have committed will not be remembered 'against me' when I die – simply because, in a simple child-like faith, I have confessed (admitted) all my sins in repentance and faith in You! I believe I will have a future that is 'glorious' - as Your Word teaches! *"Our human bodies made from dust must be changed into a body that cannot be destroyed. Our human bodies that can die must be changed into bodies that will never die. When this that can be de-*

*stroyed has been changed into that which cannot be destroyed, and when this that does die has been changed into that which cannot die, then it will happen as the Holy Writings said it would happen. They said, "Death has no more power over life." O death, where is your power? O death, where are your pains? The pain in death is sin. Sin has power over those under the Law. But God is the One Who gives us power over sin through Jesus Christ our Lord. We give thanks to Him for this. So then, Christian brothers, because of all this, be strong. Do not allow anyone to change your mind. Always do your work well for the Lord. You know that whatever you do for Him will not be wasted." (1 Corinthians 15:53-58; Living Bible)*

#### TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!

Many believers (like you) have met their death with sincere faith in Christ, and with joy in their heart! A few have left amazing testimonies behind, as they were dying. "Oh, that I could tell you what joy I possess! I am full of rapture. The Lord doth shine with such power upon my soul. He is come! He is come!" - Mrs. Mary Frances.

8.

*"SHOULD I RELY UPON THE  
BIBLICALLY-BASED DESCRIPTION OF  
HEAVEN?"*

*The Heavenly Father loves all His heavenly children equally, never favoring one above another.*

*I believe, however, that because of varying moral capabilities among the heavenly children, there will be varying degrees of responsibility in heaven. In addition, while mutual care for one another will be the normal loving relationship between heavenly children, it is entirely conceivable that there will be (as it were) more mature heavenly children caring for less mature heavenly children. This is only conjecture, but a conjecture that makes sense when one realizes that the saints in heaven will have differing degrees of moral capacity. Capacities that are developed differently on earth, and are experienced differently in heaven.*

*Heaven is more than a mere state of being. Also, heaven is not a materialistic place as*

*we think of 'places' on earth. But this Scripture (John 14) seems to teach that Heaven is a localized place, a place where all will be known and recognized, a place of sweet and conscious fellowship, a place where redeemed spirits have been embodied with a new and resurrected body like as to their resurrected Lord. A place also where there is unspeakable joy, relaxation, total health, and at times hilarious laughter!*

*Remember, Jesus had a sense of humor on earth, and we are God-like creatures with the ability to laugh! We will have spiritual, localized, and recognizable bodies that are similar, if not identical, to the body of the Resurrected Lord! Heaven has a local habitation, and is a place in the great universe of God. Jesus Christ has at this moment a human body, glorified.*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*There are "many" mansions in heaven! This means that there is room for all in heaven. The Bible describes heaven as a place where there is an innumerable company of saints, and yet a place where there is room for all and where each inhabitant is*

*treated tenderly and personally.*

*No one is lonely, no one is 'lost in the crowd', no one is intimidated, and no one is, or will be, treated impersonally. Heaven is big enough to contain every earthly inhabitant, for it is God's will that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance. It is the Father's good pleasure to give the Kingdom of heaven to all persons, but only those whose repentance and faith are genuine will find a place in heaven.*

*This is to say that there will be those in heaven who never had the joy of hearing of the Christ, but who walked in the lesser lights of God revealed to them in nature or through the conscience, or even through inferior systems of religion. But all who walk in all the light of truth they receive will nevertheless make it to heaven (and make it to heaven by the merits of Christ's righteous sacrifice) whether or not they have had opportunity personally to respond to the best and the only perfect light of God, which light is Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God.*

*All who make it to heaven make it to heaven because of Jesus Christ, whether or not they had opportunity to respond to Jesus*

*Christ personally while on earth.*

**TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"O God, I have often, in my more reflective times of serious contemplation, wondered what it would be like to die! I know that there are many sincere Christians who believe that when they die, their soul simply 'sleeps' until the distant 'resurrection morn'! I suppose a few texts in the Bible can be used to try to 'prove' this idea. But, dear Lord, are there no other Scriptures that testify to the fact that believers who die, immediately enter into a conscious, gloriously happy, personal realm—a place of reunion with loved ones and all other believers, a place of unspeakable beauty and uninhibited and joyous worship of the Lord? Father, your Son said to the 'repentant thief' on the Cross (just before He died): 'Today, thou shalt be with Me in Paradise!' Also, the apostle Paul said, 'to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.'*

*Various persons have given analogies, in an attempt to explain the passage from earth to heaven (the 'dying process'). It is like a baby being born into the world (a new world for the baby), and the newborn being immediately loved and cared for by*

*the parents of the newborn! It is like a small child falling asleep in the arms of a caring father, and being put to bed by the father, and then the child waking up in the morning to experience a new day.*

*“For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better.” (Apostle Paul).*

*Falling asleep in Jesus – this is a good description of death! But why do some Christians talk about the Death experience as ‘going through the icy river’? Or ‘going over Jordan’? Not Jesus’ description.”*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*For all eternity, the believer will praise and glorify Christ. Heaven is a place of indescribable joy, as all the hosts of heaven join in corporate praise to God.*

9.

*"WHAT WILL BE THE AUTHENTIC  
PASSPORT FOR ME - AND FOR EVERY-  
ONE ELSE - TO GET TO HEAVEN?"*

*I believe that (only by the grace and mercy of God) I will become a participant in that vast crowd of "praising saints" in heaven.*

*I shall come to know, throughout the "endless ages of eternity", the millions of God's children, from every century and from every nation and tribe and people group. I believe that many of them will be persons who learned about Jesus for the very first time, when they took their first "celestial breath" from heaven's atmosphere! I believe that there will be many who will make heaven their eternal home, who put their trust in God, as God was revealed to them on earth (unfortunately) "very faintly" (through "General Revelation" instead of through "Special Revelation"). These are persons whose hearts were most responsive to these 'lesser forms of divine Light' (Nature, Truth from non-Christian Religions, untrained Conscience, Ethical Teachings of Philosophers like Aristotle and Plato, the truth of God faintly revealed through all*

*forms of worldly Beauty, etc.).*

*These persons with 'God-honoring and Sincere Hearts' (but without accurate head knowledge based on 'Special Revelation') - will be standing beside the more fortunate Christians who responded on earth rightly with both their heads (knowledge) and their hearts (emotions) to 'Special Revelation' of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection! Both will be there - the persons who on earth were deprived of Special Revelation (but who responded sincerely with their little knowledge to a 'General Revelation'), and those who were fortunate enough to know God's 'Special Revelation' (Incarnation) and who responded with both their head and heart to that greatest revelation!*

*None will be excluded from heaven, simply because of ignorance. God only expects people on earth to respond to the 'degree' of 'light' which they have been given—whether it is the much lesser 'light' of 'General Revelation' (which is 'Christ concealed'), or whether it is the greatest degree of 'light' which is 'Special Revelation' (which is 'Christ clearly revealed')!*

**TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!**

*All will be in heaven who on earth 'walked in the light of truth' as God gave them light. Some will enter heaven, possessing so much more knowledge of Jesus than others who received so much less light on earth and who possessed little or no accurate knowledge of Jesus. What God will judge, in the end of human existence, for every person, is not the accuracy of mental knowledge about God, Man, Sin and Jesus Christ and the profound doctrines of Salvation (atonement, justification, regeneration, sanctification, etc.). However, it will be 'The Condition of the Human Heart' (receptivity to the Holy Spirit's multiple work of enlightenment, conviction, offer of forgiveness and new life, etc.).*

*If a person's heart is right with God (and only God can fully and accurately determine this), then that person will be welcomed into God's eternal kingdom, to enjoy the glories of heaven, along with the saints who early in their lives responded to the 'revealed Christ' of 'Special Revelation'! Both the 'privileged ones', and the 'much less privileged ones', will be together in heaven!*

*No person, regardless of the amount and the accuracy of knowledge that he possesses of Christ, will find out when he gets to heaven, that he possesses very little knowledge regarding the Holy Trinity (the God of Eternity)! All inhabitants of heaven – regardless of how little or how much knowledge of Christ they possessed on earth – will find themselves thrilled with the amount of knowledge of God (mentally and experientially) that they will progressively receive throughout the ‘Endless ages of eternity’.*

*There will be so much to learn about the infinite love of our eternal God, and God will not only teach us directly, but I believe He will use all His heavenly citizens to “teach each other”! I believe, as Christians of the heavenly kingdom, we will all enjoy sharing and hearing each other’s personal stories of divinely-wrought transformation, which were all experienced on earth, as a result of God’s Light that came to us in unique ways.*

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*“O God, I thank you for your ‘progressive revelation’ of yourself, and of your purpos-*

*es, and your will, and your ways! I thank you for the final (complete) revelation of yourself, through the coming of your Own Son to this earth! Jesus, who volunteered to leave heaven to come to a sin-cursed earth, lived a perfect life, performed remarkable miracles, taught with greatest of insights the truths of the Father, died an agonizing death as a sacrifice for the sins of all the world, gloriously arose from the dead to win total victory over sin and death and hell and Satan. Jesus did everything his Father sent Him to earth to accomplish! His mission was redemptive, and He alone paved the 'road to heaven' for every human being! 'What more could He do, than what He has done?' No one accomplished more than Jesus Christ did! Yes, Jesus died for sinners! Every sin that anyone has ever sinned (envy, hatred, lust, etc.) helped crucify the Son of God!*

*The entire human race (each person) is responsible for Jesus' crucifixion! 'None is righteous, no not one!' All are lost, and all would be lost eternally! But all who accept Jesus will go to heaven! No doubt about it! Based on Jesus' Promise! And those whose hearts are right will be there too! Amen!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Many believers (like you) have met their physical death with sincere faith in Christ! In addition, with joy in their heart! A few have left amazing testimonies behind, as they were dying! "I am in perfect peace, (with limited 'spiritual light' on earth), resting alone on the Blood of Christ. I find this amply sufficient with which to enter the presence of God." - Trotter*

10.

*"DOES GOD GENUINELY DESIRE FOR  
ME AND FOR EVERY OTHER PERSON  
TO GO TO HEAVEN?"*

*God loves the human race, including the 'least' and the 'last', the overlooked, the 'most unworthy'. The high and the low, the most gifted and the least gifted, the wealthy and the poor, the beautiful and the ugly, the powerful ones and the weak ones, the high profile ones and the obscure ones, the highly educated ones and the most illiterate ones. The highly positioned ones and the most overlooked ones, the unusually beautiful ones, and the out rightly repulsive ones, the young adults and the decrepit aging ones, the up-and-out moralistic sinners and the down-and-out immoral and 'raw' sinners!*

*If God would have His way, there would not be one person who would die in his (unrepented) sin! If God had His way (that is, if His 'perfect will' were carried out) there would be universal, spiritual health, as the result of the forgiveness of every sin of every person! None would perish, and all would enjoy abundant life on this earth*

*(amidst problems and trials) and enjoy eternal life hereafter! Hell was prepared for the devil and his fallen angels (demons) - Not for Human Beings!*

*God is doing everything in His power (short of coercion) to keep every soul out of hell, and to take every human to heaven! But, one's eternal destiny depends upon one thing, and one thing only - the kind of 'heart response' that a person gives to God's revelation of Light that He gives to a person (even if that 'Light' comes in a diminished form of 'General Revelation' and not 'Special Revelation'). Those only will be in heaven who have, honestly and positively, responded in their hearts to God's revelation of 'Light!' (Whether it is response to the 'Concealed Christ' or response to the 'Known Christ')!*

#### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*It is encouraging for us members of a 'Fallen Race' to know that God did not abandon us when, through our Race's Representative, the entire human race miserably 'fell into sin!'*

*Through a rather long and complex plan (over a period of many centuries), God finally brought His Son into the world to accomplish His plan for 'world redemption'. No human can fully understand the 'mystery of iniquity' (sin). Or the 'mystery of divinely-accomplished redemption through the cross and resurrection' or the 'mystery of the human free will' - but God, nevertheless, mightily 'works His miracles' of human transformation!*

*We humans seem to be impressed (even awe-struck) by large crowds—whether they are in an athletic stadium, or at a political convention, or even in a large sanctuary at a 'mega-Church'! However, the 'large crowd' surrounding the 'Throne of God' in heaven will be 'mammoth' (huge, awe-inspiring, over-whelming) compared to any human crowd on earth. God of that great gathering of the Saints gave the apostle John a vision for all the ages!*

*He wrote, "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were hold-*

*ing palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice; 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'.*" (Revelations 7:9-10)

Based on an understanding of the 'wide-ness of God's mercy' which encompasses every human being on earth, - that mercy being extended to all persons. *"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."* Revelations 7:9)

Through the 'light that lighteth every person who comes into the world', revealing either the 'concealed Christ' or the 'known Christ' it is likely that the vast majority of the entire human race will compose that 'vast multitude that no one could count' around the throne of God, all praising the 'LAMB OF GOD'!

**TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!**

*"Dear Lord, I had to exercise sincere 'faith' in You when I became a Christian (believer), and to live a life pleasing to You, O God, I must live by faith (trust) in You! Even though I cannot see You, O God, with my physical eyes, I must believe that you are 'real', that you are a 'person', that your 'Master Plan' is being accomplished in some amazing ways (on the stage of human history and even on the little stage of my own life). I further believe that life on earth is being observed, and that the life of every human being will someday be examined and will be 'judged' justly by Jesus Christ. I also believe that justice will be vindicated, that integrity will be honored, that righteousness will triumph, that holiness will prevail against all sin, that peace will prevail against all trouble-makers, that the love of God will sweep over the earth like the huge waves roll over the ocean! Yes, I believe all of this, even though, O God, I admit that sometimes certain 'doubts' about these 'spiritual realities' plague me. When wrong seems often so strong, I still believe in You and Your Word. I still believe in a glorious 'HEREAFTER'! I still believe You, O God, will take me home SOME DAY!"*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

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*Many believers (like you) have met their physical death with sincere faith in Christ, and with joy in their heart! A few have left amazing testimonies behind, as they were dying: "Can this be death? Why, it is better than living! Tell them I die happy in Jesus!"*  
*John Arthur Lyth*

11.

*"IS DEATH A FRIEND OR A FOE TO  
ME?"*

*Someone said, "Death is the most democratic institution on earth... It comes to all men regardless of color, education, wealth, or rank. It allows no discrimination, tolerates no exception. The mortality rate of mankind is the same the world over, one death per person." (Fred Duehner)*

*Not only is death the one universal fact of life, but death is the one fact of life that forces every person to make a choice.*

*The Christian with strong faith in God knows that death does not end it all, but that the perishability of death will someday be swallowed up in the imperishability of eternal life.*

*With the Apostle Paul, the true Christian declares, "This perishable being must be clothed with the imperishable, and what is mortal must be clothed with immortality. And when our mortality has been clothed with immortality, then the saying of Scripture will come true: 'Death is swallowed up; victory is won.' 'O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is*

*your sting?' The sting of death is sin; and sin gains its power from the law; but, God be praised, he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:53-57)*

*Death will inevitably cause you to say one of two things, either "All is emptiness and chasing after wind", or "God be praised, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Death compels everyone to choose between faith and despair.*

#### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*"Don't Be Troubled in Your Heart", said Jesus. (John 14) How often these circumstances tend to trouble us! The thought of separation from loved ones troubles us, just as the thought troubled the disciples. Sorrow is legitimate for Christians, for feelings are a real part of being human. When we shed tears, Jesus sheds tears with us.*

*However, when we believe, put trust in Jesus, our sorrows are soothed, our broken hearts are mended, and our voids of loneliness are filled.*

*What is the basis of our comfort in sorrow?  
Contemplation of Our Heavenly Father!*

*The Father has a mansion ready for us and we need not fear. There is a place for us! Where we feel at home, not alone, a feeling of belonging, (like we felt when, as a child, we put total trust in our earthly father's provision). There will be nothing strange about heaven!*

*Where there is plenty abundance. There are mansions in heaven, especially suited to each of us. There is no lack in heaven. Our every need will be supplied, our every desire fulfilled and our every capacity developed. No overcrowding in heaven, there is room for all!*

*There is neither positioning nor deprivation! There we will have total fellowship with one another! There will be no isolation or loneliness in heaven!*

*To a far greater extent than is true of the fellowship between loving family members in the best of earthly homes, there will be deep and blessed fellowship in heaven with loved ones who have gone on before us, and who will come after us.*

*It is our 'Father's House' where we will dwell, and this speaks of intimate and*

*warm fellowship and sharing, no competition but fullest cooperation.*

***TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!***

*"Dear Loving God, even though I am a believer in Christ, and even though (based on the promise of the Word of God) I claim assurance that heaven will be my eternal home (if, of course, I remain faithful to my spiritual 'covenant'), I still must admit that I have some 'trepidation' when I think of the inevitable fact that someday I will experience death! It is the 'unknown', and it is the 'process of dying' that gives me concern! But, your Word assures me that I have no need to fear death—as long as I keep my 'hand' of faith clasping your great 'hand' of grace! It is 'grace' and 'grace' alone that will get me from earth to heaven!*

*Without you, I could not enter heaven! But you, O God, cannot take me to heaven without my consent and willingness and obedience! I must respond to your call of obedience, and my obedience to your holy will (holy laws) must be a 'way of life' with me, until the very end of my life! Be Thou faithful until death and I will give you a 'crown of life' - God's word of both 'promise'*

*and 'condition'! By your grace, and by my continuing response of obedience to your gift of grace - this combination 'spells' life, here and hereafter! Death ushers me into the 'nearer presence of God', and therefore 'Death' is a 'Friend', not a 'Foe'! Wonderful!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*You have no need to fear 'Death'! Remember: Death is simply a bridge that spans the gulf between time and eternity. One who is a true believer in Christ goes over that bridge into the nearer presence of Christ.*

12.

*"AS AN IDENTIFIABLE PERSON WILL I  
CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN HEAVEN?"*

*The Heavenly Father loves all His heavenly children equally, never favoring one above another. I believe, however that because of varying moral capabilities among the heavenly children, there will be varying degrees of responsibility in heaven.*

*In addition, while mutual care for one another will be the normal loving relationship between heavenly children, it is entirely conceivable that there will be (as it were) more mature heavenly children caring for less mature heavenly children. This is only conjecture, but a conjecture that makes sense when one realizes that the saints in heaven will have differing degrees of moral capacity. Capacities that are developed differently on earth, but are experienced differently in heaven.*

*Heaven is more than a mere state of being: also, heaven is not a materialistic place as we think of 'places' on earth. But this Scripture (John 14) seems to teach that Heaven is a localized place, a place where*

*all will be known and recognized, a place of sweet and conscious fellowship, a place where redeemed spirits have been embodied with a new and resurrected body like as to their resurrection Lord. A place also where there is unspeakable joy, relaxation, total health, and at times hilarious laughter!*

*Remember, Jesus had a sense of humor on earth, and we are God-like creatures with the ability to laugh! We will have spiritual, localized, and recognizable bodies that are similar, if not identical, to the body of the Resurrected Lord! Heaven has a local habitation, and is a place in the great universe of God. Jesus Christ has at this moment a human body, glorified.*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*There are "many" mansions in heaven! This means that there is room for all in heaven. The Bible describes heaven as a place where there is an innumerable company of saints, and yet a place where there is room for all and where each inhabitant is treated tenderly and personally. No one is lonely, no one is 'lost in the crowd', no one is intimidated, and no one will be treated*

*impersonally. Heaven is big enough to contain every earthly inhabitant, for it is God's will that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance. It is the Father's good pleasure to give the Kingdom of heaven to all persons, but only those whose repentance and faith are genuine will find a place in heaven!*

*Christians who die do not lose their identity in eternity. I believe that the believer's new body will be similar to Jesus' body after the resurrection, just prior to His ascension. A tangible body, yet a spiritual body, a body not confined to limitations of the material world. When Jesus arose, He 'was seen and known.' We, too, in heaven will have our personal identity. We shall be known and recognizable.*

*Death for the Christian is the end to earth's labors, and is the beginning to heaven's eternal development and labor. Said Victor Hugo, "For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose, verse, history, philosophy, drama, romance, tradition, satire, ode, and song—I have tried them all. But I feel I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me. When I go down to the grave I can say like so many others, 'I*

*have finished my day's work'. But I cannot say, 'I have finished my life'. My day's work will begin again next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight to open with the dawn."*

### *TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O Father, your Son (Jesus), just before His death and resurrection, told His followers that He was going to heaven to prepare a place for them. And He assured His many later followers (His millions of followers through the 'ages') that a place is being prepared for them also! None would be left out!*

*A special place for each sincere disciple of Jesus! There is neither positioning nor deprivation! There we will have total fellowship with one another! There will be no isolation or loneliness in heaven!*

*To a far greater extent than is true of the fellowship between loving family members in the best of earthly homes, there will be deep and blessed fellowship in heaven with loved ones who have gone on before us, and will come after us.*

*It is our 'Father's House' where we will dwell, and this speaks of intimate and warm fellowship and sharing, no competition but fullest cooperation. Anticipate meeting the saints of the ages! Hallelujah!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*There is no lack in heaven. Our every need will be supplied, our every desire fulfilled, and our every capacity developed. No overcrowding in heaven, there is room for all!*

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