

Real Heaven

#0578

Study given by W. D. Frazee

I am so glad that God has promised us a part in the space trip where there is no possibility of anyone being lost. Men up on the moon wouldn't want to stay there very long, but where we are going is worth staying. We are going home to be with Jesus. When He left He said:

"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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" John 14:1-3.

Why would you like to go to heaven? Do you like the way they do things in heaven? Have you tried it? Wouldn't it be a strange thing to buy a one-way ticket to a land halfway around this planet that you had never been to and didn't know what the conditions were. You didn't know what the living conditions were, but you would buy a ticket to that place with the thought of settling down. I can imagine that anyone who would buy a one-way ticket to somewhere on this earth would want to know quite a bit about it beforehand.

Are you going to heaven? Do you know how things are? Do you like it? Suppose there is a chance to find out by experience right here in this world how things are up there. Would you like to try it out to see whether you can stand it? Would you like to see if you like it enough to want it to never end? Aren't most of the experiences in this life, things that people would rather not last forever? God wants you and me to become well acquainted with heaven right here in this world so we can decide for sure whether we want an eternity of it or not. Jesus taught us to pray:

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" Matthew 6:9-10.

We pray for that kingdom to come and His will be done where? In earth as it is in heaven. That would make heaven in this earth. That's the difference between this world and heaven. The Psalmist says:

"For ever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven"
Psalm 119:89.

This is the rule of life in heaven. Couldn't we try it out down here? How is it done in heaven? God's word settles things. If a man wants to know about anything he finds out what God says and that settles it.

Someone says, "Oh, I am afraid that would be a dictatorship."

You had better not go then. You wouldn't want to go to a place where you were going to spend eternity and feel that you were under a dictatorship, would you? You had better find out. You had better try it out. And the words that run things up there are available for us here.

Some people are sure they wouldn't like it. No problem. They won't be there. But those who taste and see for themselves that the Lord is good, and go by the book are going to enter into an experience in this world that will fit them to enjoy the same experience forever. The way to go is to have a foretaste of it here. We need a heaven here to go to heaven in.

"Therefore shall ye lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth"
Deuteronomy 11:18-21.

What is it we are to be talking about? God's word. Notice what the results will be: That your days may be multiplied as the days of heaven upon the earth. Fill the shelves with the words of God. Fill up with what God says on every subject, and then do it. Not just once a week. Every day. Morning and evening. Coming and going. Rising and sitting. Working and playing. Go by the words of God. If you will do it your days will be multiplied as the days of heaven upon the earth.

"Heaven is to begin on this earth. When the Lord's people are filled with meekness and tenderness, they will realize that His banner over them is love, and His fruit will be sweet to their taste. They will make a heaven below in which to prepare for heaven above" *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 7, page 131.

I am so glad that living a religious life in this world isn't serving a sentence in the penitentiary with time off for good behavior. Nothing like that. Heaven is to begin here in this world. Right now we are to enter into the joy and sweetness of life with Jesus. Have you started? Do you like what you have tasted? Would you like a second helping? There is plenty more in the kitchen. We can have more and more and more.

If we know what heaven is like, we will know what to expect when we get there, and we will also know what to aim for in the lives we seek to live here. If we

understand this, we will make a heaven below to go to heaven in. How are we going to make a heaven below to go to heaven in? By listening to the Word of God.

The men who are building this new sanitarium over here are going by the blueprint. Rolls of them. Every room in that building was drawn out on paper by the architect before there was any concrete poured. If you go over there you will see men every now and then looking at the blueprint. Why? To make it like the pattern. So every day you and I are to be reading this Word to find out what heaven is like so we can make our lives and homes and everything we manage as much like heaven as possible. We do it for two reasons. First, so we can live there forever. Second, so we can influence as many other people as possible to get in on the good thing.

Heaven is real. There is nothing make-believe about it. The great enemy knows that deep in our hearts we long for real things. And why shouldn't we? I don't want counterfeit money. I don't want play-like money. I want real money. It takes that to buy anything. I want real food, not make-believe food. It takes real food to make real blood to build a real brain, and I need a real brain. Everything in life can be real if we will go by the books. And it is going to be real in heaven—nothing imaginary about it.

Deep in our hearts there is a longing for reality. So down through the ages the enemy has tried to bring in fables and fairy-tales to make heaven in the future life seem very unreal—mystical and ghost-like. Even those who believe in religion have ideas that are fuzzy. But heaven is real. Read about it in Revelation 21-22. Read about the city. Read about its dimensions. Read about the tree of life and the water of life. And remember, a real Jesus left this world in a real body and went up to a real heaven. He is coming back here to get real people and take us up to that real place to have a real life. Aren't you glad?

There is no tinsel about it. There is no make-believe. There is nothing to peel off to show something else underneath. It is real. Do you like real things, or would you rather have artificial things? You are deciding that every day in diet and dress, and in the things you enjoy. Would you rather read something that really happened or something that is just make-believe?

Someone says, "But I just love stories."

What for?

They are so exciting.

Do you really think that something that never happened is more exciting than something that did happen? Heaven is real. And the heaven that is to begin here is to be filled with reality—the natural, not the artificial, the true, not the false.

"And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof" Zechariah 8:5.

Heaven is a happy place. Would you like to know why everyone is happy there while they are playing and singing instead of groaning and complaining?

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” Proverbs 29:18.

Is this something we can have in this world, or will we have to wait until we get there? Is to keep the law a way to be happy? Nothing was ever more unpopular than that truth is right now on this planet. Almost everyone thinks that the way to have a good time and get what you want is to break the law. The Devil has sold that idea to millions of people. This is what is the matter with the world. This is why there is so much unhappiness, because the way to be happy is to keep the law.

Someone says, “I tried it, but it didn’t make me happy.”

I have heard of people going into a kitchen with a cookbook and try out a recipe. They came back and said, It didn’t work. Did any of you ever try out a recipe and it didn’t work? What did you do? Did you throw the cookbook away, or did you try again? Maybe you left out something. And if you tried to keep the law and it didn’t make you happy you left out something. Do you know what it is?

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” Romans 13:10.

It takes love to fulfill the law. If you try to keep the law without love it will not make you happy. Nothing will make you happy without love. God never made anything to work without love. Love is the law of life in the universe. Love is what makes heaven happy to us. But if you love God you will do what? Keep My commandments (John 14:15).

I want to go to heaven, and thank God, I have started.

Someone says, “Do you think you have arrived?”

Well, I have had just enough to know for sure that this is what I want. I want more and more of it. I don’t have enough yet, but I have enough to know this is what I want. I have enough to cancel everything else. All other trips are canceled out. This is the trip for me. And I don’t mean this foolishly, but I haven’t made an reservations for a trip to the moon. If they would guarantee my way up there and back with all expenses and safe conduct I wouldn’t go. That is not the road from here to heaven. I have something more important to do, and that is living the life of heaven right here on this planet. That opportunity is bought and paid for by Jesus Christ.

Let’s get ready to go on the real space trip. What do we need to do to get ready? Jesus came nearly two thousand years ago. His message was, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. What does repent mean? To get your mind changed so you are sorry about the things you used to think were funny and enjoy the things you used to groan about. Repentance means to be sorry for any sin and all sin. That work will have to be complete before we can go to heaven, because it would be a shame to get up there and craving some sin when there was none of it up there. What would you do? Wouldn’t you be miserable?

Someone says, "But I wouldn't be that way if I were up there."

Yes, you would if you are that way here. A trip up to the moon didn't change the nature of anyone. And a trip to heaven wouldn't change a one of us. All changing that is to be done has got to take place right here on this planet.

Do you want to get changed? Not just so you can take the trip, but so you can make Jesus happy? Changing people is the hardest job in the world. Every now and then I try to work at it, but I notice that people's hair begins to stand up. They begin to get ruffled. People just don't like to be changed. Do you? That's our problem. That's God's problem.

We are so sure that we have the answer that even if we read the Book, we are tempted to read whether we are right or some other religion is wrong, or that we are right and the other members of our family are wrong. Did you ever get out the *Testimonies* to prove that someone is wrong? It has been done. It is a wonderful thing to study the Bible with the express purpose of getting our minds changed.

Someone may say, "Oh, I wish Uncle Henry or Aunt Mary were here tonight. That is just what they need."

What might help them is if you and I get serious in letting this Book change us.

I was much impressed that something came to my attention. It is an article called, *Repentance, Revival, Reformation, If*. It is in the *Ministry* magazine, November, 1970. This is the magazine that goes to our ministry all over the world. Many other people read it too. This particular article was written by a layman, but it is in this *Ministry* magazine. We hear a lot of talk about revival and reformation, and this layman shows that repentance has to come first, and all of it has to come before we get ready for Jesus. I will read from this article:

"The call for revival is of God. God expects us to prepare the way for the working of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Revival and reformation have never come to God's people in the past without repentance. But how can a people repent if they see no reason for doing so? We believe that our present dilemma is a direct result of failing to believe the instructions given us through the Spirit of Prophecy writings, and our unwillingness to carry them out. There seem to be four areas of deliberate departure from these instructions, as we shall point out in brief.

"First—an actual rebellion against dress reform. Can there be a revival so long as we are unwilling to conform to the purposes of the Lord? It is not only in dress that we demand to be like the world about us. We need to see that we have turned away from the plain paths where the Lord has directed us to walk. We must become willing to take up the cross of being different from the world if we are to meet heaven's approval. This is the test we face today.

“Second—health reform. Near the turn of the century came a disregard of and indifference to health reform.

“Third—education. Between 1930 and 1940 we find the denomination in a titanic struggle over accreditation with the worldly schools. Should we seek it or not is the burning question in the minds of the teachers, ministers, physicians, and laymen. This very same question had also plagued Israel under Solomon. Much more might be said on this matter, but surely anyone believing the messages of Ellen G. White that have been inspired of God cannot relate to much of what may be seen and heard in SDA schools today. May it not be possible that through neglect to follow what has been written we are actually influencing our youth to be like the world in seeking another door into the kingdom of heaven?

“Four—The greatest evidence of our unbelief is to be seen in the elimination of the sanitarium. We have even eliminated the name in many cases. In doing this we have lost the meaning of that work that must characterize the effort of those who receive the latter rain, namely medical missionary work.

“To the careful student of Biblical history and of the course to the Seventh-day Adventist movement has taken, it seems that the Lord has allowed us to have our own way in order that we might realize that man’s ways are not best. Some may think we are too critical, but God says that this whole people are critical, for as a church we are neither cold nor hot. We are completely indifferent, and someone has said that the most destructive criticism is indifferent. Ancient Israel never strayed more willfully than have we, and we have had a great advantage over them. Now will we turn and seek the Lord for forgiveness, or press on in darkness. Do we really want a revival? A revival of true Godliness? Our greatest and most urgent need? Before we ask, would it not be wise to consider that reformation must follow revival? May we each realize, leaders and laymen alike, that where there is no realization of our need there can be no repentance. Where there is no repentance there can be no revival. Where there is no revival there will be no reformation. Where there is no reformation there will be no place among the redeemed for those who might have known the time of their visitation.”

This heartens me. Shouldn’t it hearten every child of God to hear the trumpet giving a certain sound? This ought to wake us up, and it ought to challenge every lukewarm Laodicean. What do you say? The question that comes to me is whether

this is just for the people in California or Michigan, or could we need it right here tonight? Of course, if we have already arrived we don't need changing, do we? If we have arrived in what this article is talking about, there would be such a mighty power operating that we would know that the latter rain was falling and the loud cry was on. And until we arrive at that we had better be seeking with all our hearts. We can't bring the rain, but we can seek God for repentance.

Would you like to see some changes? Would you like to come nearer to God's blueprint in education, medical work, health reform and dress reform? Suppose we get out the Bible and the volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy and do what they say. Here is a voice crying, pleading with us to take hold of this glorious opportunity to turn homeward and leave the world in all its ideas, and just do what God says. Shall we do it?

The Spirit of God will have to help you to know where to begin. One of our greatest dangers is to look about us and think we are further up the road than most people, so we must be getting alone pretty well. But it is going to take more than that to get ready for the latter rain and the loud cry. Most of the people we are looking at and comparing with will never get ready. So if we are in any sense being motivated by them, or influenced by what they do we will never get ready. There is only one thing that will get us ready. That is to take these inspired pages and study them on our knees and do what they say.

If there is anything the Devil hates it is getting down to business. Study the teaching of John the Baptist. He was quite specific. He was plain spoken. He got down to business. He laid the axe at the root of the tree. And as I have been studying and praying over this earnest call in the *Ministry* magazine I have felt impressed to make a beginning and see what God will do.

I believe that there is someone who will want to take hold of this call to repentance and revival in these specific things. I believe that God is laying upon some hearts a burden, and they want to do something about some of these things. He that keeps the law, happy is he. If we take the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy and follow it, we can get ready for heaven.

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