

Heaven Glory Revealed

April, 27, 2014

What We Misunderstand

- 1 Corinthians 2:9-10
 - We make the mistake of stopping at verse nine. We use Scripture to support our “not knowing, not seen, not heard.”
 - We need to make sure we read verse 10.
 - God is the revealer. We can't have complete understanding on our own; it is the job of the Holy Spirit. He searches and reveals deep things. Heaven is deep and supernatural. We need to allow our mind to go to deep places.

Paul's Amazing Experience

- 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
 - “The man” was Paul, speaking in the third person as many Jewish Rabbi' would so it would not appear boastful.
 - He's writing about a time that was fourteen years earlier. Whether he was in or out of his body he's not sure, but the important point is that he went to heaven.
 - He was caught in the 3rd heaven—Paradise itself.
 - Luke 23:42-43
 - He heard words so inexpressible he couldn't repeat them. It is part of the mystery of heaven.
 - “Paul meant to say that he could not attempt by words to do justice to what he saw and heard... there were truths imparted to his mind which he could not hope to convey in any language spoken by people.”¹ Albert Barnes, Bible Scholar

Why We Misunderstand

- It is spiritual in nature; not intellectual.
- Revelation 13:6
 - There is an ongoing satanic, beastly attack in the spirit realm against God, His Name and Nature, His tabernacle, and upon those who dwell in heaven!
 - Satan's attack creates silence, ignorance, and a minimized view of Jesus and heaven.
 - Minimized Jesus—This happens when people think He can't change very much from their past. Or they believe they can't be empowered very much for today, or they think there's not very much to look forward to in future.
 - There is an attack against heaven. Don't fall prey to it, study, know the truth about where you're going to spend eternity! It's an amazing, out of this world, heavenly Paradise!

What We Must Understand

¹ Albert Barnes, *Notes, Explanatory and Practical, On the Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*, (London: Benjamin L. Green, 1851), 242

Do You Believe?

- John 11:25-26
 - Jesus is Resurrection and Life—we live in Him.
 - Believers never die.
 - Eternal life means exciting, eternal living and not eternal floating, in boredom and inaction.

Be Heavenly Minded

- Colossians 3:1-2
 - We need to be heavenly minded so we will be of some earthly good!
- Revelation 4:1
 - I believe Jesus is telling His church to “come up here,” so He can “show us things” heavenly things, hopeful things, and eternal things! We need to set our minds on heaven and have heaven in our minds, today! We have an outstanding opportunity and we need to take advantage of it.

Jesus Has Prepared a Place for Us

- John 14:1-3
 - If there was not any place, with no mansions, no eternity, and no heaven, Jesus “would have told you.”
 - He mentions “place” twice. Heaven is a city the likes of which should capture our attention and our affection.
 - Hebrews 11:10
 - Hebrews 11:15-16
 - They didn’t look back to the place from which they came. They desired the better heavenly country. Because of their heart and focus, God was not ashamed to be called their God—prepared a city for His people!
 - Revelation 21:2-5
 - Revelation 21:10-27

Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-10. Many times we only read verse 9 and ignore verse 10, but we can’t do that. What does verse 10 tell you? Help you to understand?
2. God wants us to understand all there is about Him. He wants us to fully understand His power, His beauty, His majesty and His will. How does verse ten help you to how you can “fully understand”?
3. William Barclay wrote, “The word Paradise comes from a Persian word which means a walled garden. When a Persian king wished to confer a very special honour on someone specially dear to him, he made him a companion of the garden and gave him the right to walk in the royal gardens with him in close companionship”² Why is the word “paradise” appropriate for Paul to use to describe Heaven?
4. In Luke 23:42-43 the thief thinks about a kingdom, yet Jesus talk of paradise. What was the thief’s expectation? How did Jesus help him to not misunderstand but see heaven’s reality?
5. In what ways does Jesus show you He has power over your past? Today? Your future?

² William Barclay, *About the Letters to the Corinthians*, (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002), Logos Software Edition

6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:8. How does Paul's message underscore John 11:25-26? How do these verses change how you live, hope and grieve?
7. What do the words "seek" and "set" mean? What are we to seek? On what do we set? How does seeking and setting keep us heavenly focused?
8. Read Hebrews 11:13-16. Why did these people hand on to their faith, even though they never saw what they hoped for during their earthly lives? How does this apply to us and our attitude toward heaven?
9. What was Abraham's attitude toward this world and the things of this world? How did his attitude shape his outlook and life? How should it affect your outlook and life?
10. Summarize the description of the Holy City in Revelation 21.
11. As you think about heaven, and the Holy City, in what ways is it different from this world? Does that make you want to set heaven into your mind? Why?