

THE IMPORTANCE OF HEAVEN

Beloved of the Lord:

Is it not timely for a heaven bound believer to be very interested in "our heavenly country"? This critical time in history should arouse the incentive to think of our home above! "HEAVEN" is recorded more than 600 times in Scripture, showing its importance to God and to us. The following Scriptures give some reasons for it -

1 - THE LORD JESUS said in Matt.6:9 - "After this manner therefore pray ye - 'Our Father which art in heaven". He uses the word as an incentive for prayer; that in relationship as children we address Him as "our Father". Read John 20:17 - the words of a Risen Christ!

2 - THE LORD JESUS said in Matt.6:20- "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" etc. The financial institutions of earth are yet to fail, ALL! Read Rev. 18. Commercial and ecclesiastical Babylon are yet to CRASH! - Dan.2:35. Then how much have we believers deposited in the Bank of Heaven which can NEVER fail!

3 - THE LORD JESUS said "Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven". Words of encouragement to stimulate service for Him, no matter the cost or suffering. Heaven is where we receive eternal compensation for our faithful service here.

4 - THE LORD JESUS said - Luke 12:32,33, words of the heavenly kingdom - "Fear not, little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the KINGDOM" God always has a kingdom-Dan.4:3,25! Whatever cause for fear in present circumstances, this assurance of an "Everlasting kingdom" is a source of encouragement and comfort - 2 Pet.1:11.

5 - THE LORD JESUS said - "Rejoice in that day, and leap for JOY..for great is your reward in heaven" etc.-Luke 6:23. To dwell upon heaven, can produce joy while living in this troubled world. Hated, despised and reproached, thoughts of heavenly reward will comfort us in suffering.

6 - THOUGHTS OF HEAVEN give blessed comfort to the dying saint - "Stephen" when being stoned to death, said "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God"-Acts 7:56. What heavenly consolation this was to the dying martyr of the Church!

Another saint, Richard Hooker, as he neared the gates of heaven said: "I go to a world of order". Saintly Richard Baxter, faithful servant of God, during his last illness, whispered in reply to an enquiry as to how he felt, "I am almost well", knowing heaven was his everlasting rest! My beloved, let us think and be prepared for that blessed comfort of knowing that "to be with Christ, is FAR BETTER"!

7 - THE BLESSED HOPE - (Tit.2:13; 1Thess.4:13-18) is our HEAVENLY HOPE! Are we not told to "WAIT for His Son from heaven"? Yes, "even Jesus, our DELIVERER from the coming wrath" - 1Thess.1:10. This blessed hope of being in heaven is given to ALL who trust the Saviour for salvation. The Lord said to the repentant dying thief-"today shalt thou be WITH ME in paradise" and gave him a PRESENT salvation, a PERSONAL promise to be in a PERFECT place - Luke 23:43.

"The coming of the Lord draweth nigh"-Jas.5:8. Then should we not seek to know from God's Word, more of the blessed heaven where we soon shall be? Read 1 Cor. 2:9,10 - noting that "God hath revealed them unto us BY HIS SPIRIT"!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

