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## **THE FUTURE LIFE**

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## **PREFACE**

"Blessed are they that are homesick for they shall get home." Nothing can better create, or keep alive this homesickness for heaven than a daily study of the Word, a good religious experience, much prayer, celestial treasures and heavenly attractions.

Who, with the Bible to direct us and the Christian hope to inspire us, can live without thinking much of heaven? It is not enough to think of heaven and to know there is such a place, but no one should be satisfied for one moment until they know ample preparation is made.

When one is about to go to an unknown country, many questions will arise in mind during the days of preparation, and it is strange how much information he will secure about the country before going. Then why not concentrate upon the future life that we may intelligently and as comfortably as possible journey in that direction?

It has been said that heaven is so indistinctly revealed to us. That is true in a sense; heaven is revealed to us through revelations, figures, images and symbols. And these symbols are caskets to which humble and Spirit-filled Christians have the key. The Spirit is the true commentator. He takes the things of Christ and reveals them unto us. The Bible and the Spirit should be listened to as much as we would listen to an ambassador from a distant country, while he earnestly discharged the duties of his office.

The Bible says much about heaven and it is your duty and privilege as a Christian to know the way. It may not tell you all your presumptuous curiosity might prompt you to know but Sacred Writ does cheer our hearts and strengthen our every longing while we journey toward the city.

My purpose in presenting these truths is for comfort and refreshment as we press toward the evening sunset.

Aged pilgrim! You expect to go there soon. You are already going down the wintry hill-side of life toward the valley of the shadow of death. Lift up your eyes and behold the new Jerusalem almost in sight. Your eyes are growing dim to earthly surroundings, your ears are deaf to earthly music., your feet are becoming heavy. See a land fairer than day. Don't you hear that heavenly music? To think of heaven is excellent past-time while the chariots of Israel tarry. Heaven, Oh! Heaven! Who does not desire to know all about it? Heaven is our Father's house, the home of angels and all the redeemed who have fallen asleep in Jesus. Heaven, the home of all hope, the end of our earthly pilgrimage, where we expect to dismiss every burden, forget every sorrow and be with Jesus and the redeemed forever.

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## Part I The Future Life Immortality

Does death end all? Is there a life beyond? Can we obtain any reliable information about it? These are questions of the greatest importance and the deepest interest. They lie at the foundation of all religion. They have aroused the interest and attention of the wisest and best of mankind in every age. A belief in this doctrine is a powerful incentive to the practice of moral and religious duty. To establish the doctrine of immortality we turn to the teaching of inspiration. Hence, the only reliable information is the Word of God. The doctrine of immortality is emphatically a doctrine of Divine Revelation. It is purely and exclusively a Bible doctrine. Advocates of this doctrine have been found in every age. Nature may impart the hope, salvation alone can give the assurance. Christ by his life, death and triumphant resurrection "hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light." Therefore Christianity upon the authority of a direct revelation from heaven is giving us the truth of the doctrine.

We are frequently facing the question of the ages. "If a man die, shall he live again ?" It is easy to believe in immortality as we stand by a newly made grave of a friend or loved one. Death does not startle nature or God, but it is the method God uses in changing us from one world to another. The grave is but the gate to life. Death is a visitor with whom we will never become accustomed. Yet, it is nothing uncommon for with every tick of the clock three souls leave this world to meet God.

When stricken with grief we read the Scripture, "Because I live, ye shall live also." Death is the decree of the loving God, the doorway through which we pass to Eternal Day. Death is the best method provided by a loving Lord for exchanging worlds. Jesus Christ tunneled the grave and walked out into Liberty, Victory, and Immortality. What He did, He gives us power to do for He was declared to be the Son of God with power. "Rut now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that slept." I Cor. 15:20.

A glance into the other world naturally causes one to ask questions as to their future existence. Is death a gateway to endless sorrow or is it an entrance into endless bliss? Such questions come into the mind of all rational beings from the rich man in his palace to the bum of the street.

"Death is not the end; it is only a new beginning. Death is not the master of the home; he is only the appointed porter to open the gate and let the King's guest into the realm of eternal day." J. H. J. Life is not necessarily enclosed within a limit of three score years and ten. We are sailing upon a great sea. The Great Mediterranean Sea is but a fish pond compared to the sea of life we are sailing upon. We are upon the great waters, yea, we are immortal and are sailing with tomorrow in view.

God made no special attempt to prove our future existence but He gives us this truth as an evident fact.

All nationalities of the past have always had within them a native acknowledgment of the fact of a supreme being. The American Indian called it "The Great Spirit." The woman yonder on the bank of the Ganges River willingly throws her baby to the crocodiles believing there is a God, and she has been taught that by this act she will appease the wrath of her God.

Wicked men will testify to the fact that they have within them something that witnesses to a supreme power.

Nature will prove to you there is a God if you desires to see the truth. God has placed something in your breast. which will lead you to the dawn of a beautiful day. God has existed from eternity to eternity, the author of the soul of man.

Here, we have a silver watch; we know that back of this watch existed some intelligent being greater than the watch itself. Then, suppose we go back to the factory where it was made, but that fails to satisfy. Hence, we go back to the silver mine, where the silver was obtained. With profound thought we wonder who made the silver and from whence it came, and back of all is an all-wise infinite God. Therefore, man is the climax of all of God's creation. What is man and what can a well developed and well trained man accomplish with the aid of his Maker? Man not only learns by experience and observation but he can obtain a practical education through the wonderful facilities of travel. Man is back of nature, empires, laws, codes and constitutions. Man has connected continents and annihilated space until this world has become one great neighborhood. The trained mind takes the lead in civilization, constructing roads, building bridges and tunneling mountains. Man has made scales which will weigh a pencil mark or the smallest hair from the eyebrow. He forecasts the weather, predicts the eclipse and foretells the coming storm. He measures the distance from the earth to the sun and gives us scientific information, concerning the Milky Way. He tells us that two pounds of spider web will go around the earth at the Equator but it will take two tons to reach the nearest star. Yet, with all this power, he can't create even one blade of grass. There must be a first cause back of him. An Omnipotent Being.

We see God's mighty handiwork on every hand. His footprints are left on the sand of time. He measures the water in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with a span, and

comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains with scales and the hills in a balance. Therefore, only a supreme being can do such. When we behold nature and the beauty of God's creation, we will admit that the heavenly artist alone can make and paint things so beautiful.

It was Dr. Mayo of Rochester, Minn., who said, "Man has religious needs and that religion has what man needs and not creeds." The God who created something out of nothing and wasted not a single atom in all His creation, has made provision for a future life in which man's universal longing for immortality will find its realization. I am as sure that you will live again as I am sure you are living now.

God created man just a little lower than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor and gave him intellect sensibility, and will, and having the right kind of training and environment he can attain much heavenly knowledge. Does it seem that an all-wise God would create such a being as man with capacities to know, love, and serve Him and then assign him to failure and disappointment? Every power of man's makeup bespeaks the fact that he was made for a more noble existence than is possible for him to attain in this life. Every power we possess proclaims the fact that man is immortal; is created for a sunnier clime than that of earth. The best we can do here is to get where we can bless humanity and then off the stage of action, we go into eternity. Could it be reasonable to think that it is all of life to live and all of death to die? The poet was correct when he said:

"Life is real, life is earnest,  
And the grave is not it's goal;  
Dust thou art to dust returnest,  
Was not spoken of the soul."

The Almighty has provided a great ship upon which He will carry us across the misty and muddy stream of time and land us safely in the ocean of glory and happiness where we can enjoy eternal bliss. The universal longing of man for Immortality can find its realization in the haven of eternal rest.

We believe in an all-wise and infinite Creator and that in the meantime, He will lift the limitations placed upon us. But if we live a few passing years and then pass away and be no more, why need man such wonderful power? Then why not make him as the ox which has no higher admiration and aspiration than of food to satisfy the hunger? Man with lofty powers can look forward to the time when limitations will be removed and mortal put on immortality.

We see death ends probation forever, and that life does not end all. Man will live on when this earthly frame shall have crumbled into dust. This is the Christian's hope. In the hour of death, hope sees a star and dying love hears the rustling of angel's wings. The angel of death makes his way across the river of death coming to the rescue of the Christian.

The Christian hope kindles a smile on the brow of the saint and hangs the rainbow of hope over the grave of our loved ones. The anchor holds in the storms of life and when your feet enter the chilly waters of death, you need to fear no evil, for Christ will lead through the misty stream

and will see that the waters shall not overflow. We shall awake in His likeness and climb out over on the other shore and our eyes will catch a glimpse of the King upon His Majestic Throne and behold angels as they welcome to the land of the blessed. Then, we will meet our loved ones who have gone on before and meet to part no more. Brethren, such an experience will "Far exceed our fondest dreams."

Aside from the Resurrection of Christ and what He had to say about it we have no positive proof of the immortality of the soul.

There are various lines of evidences, and no one contains all the truth of the facts under consideration, but each adds to the general weight of proof. Among these arguments are the following:

#### I. Man's universal feelings about the future life.

We would not for a moment think of God deceiving us along this line. As winter approaches and the birds start for a warmer climate, are they deceived? Can you conceive of God who gives that marvelous instinct to the bird and then not give man some intuitive feeling of Immortality. Bacon said, "Learning leads to skepticism, but profound philosophy leads to religion." Immortality is the goal in view. Scientists, philosophers, and inventors have believed in a future life. Nature never deceives instinct; such as birds to the air, ducks to the pond, and moles to the ground. The skeptic is like a squirrel or a bee which fails to prepare for winter. Just as surely as God designed fins for the water, light for the eye, and sound for the ear, He also made heaven for the soul. Truly, the Spirit of Immortality is divinely implanted in humanity.

Let immortality be the first lesson of the nursery and let it be the motto of every school, college, university and seminary throughout the land; let it be preached from every platform and pulpit in Christendom. Let it be preached everywhere that the soul is immortal, and will live throughout eternity when earthly kingdoms have fallen. The soul may enjoy eternal felicity in the realms of eternal bliss.

#### II. A sense of our incompleteness.

There is a sense of incompleteness in man as far as this life is concerned. The more the student thinks, the more he is convinced that this is a life of incompleteness. In other words, this life is a small part of a great whole.

1. Is all your experience, wealth, and wisdom purchased with the price of pain and discipline to utterly perish at your death?

2. Most good people feel as they stand by an open grave, though they have the frost of winter upon their heads that eternal spring has just begun within their hearts. You frequently hear people say, "I am seventy or eighty years young" and not old. They mean immortality is about to peep from behind the eastern horizon. In spite of distressing and alarming conditions of earth existing as they do about us, the Eternal and All-Wise God behind the curtain longs and eagerly

waits to bless us with heaven's multiplied blessings and in the morning open to us the door of immortality.

### III. The continuation of personality proves the immortality of the soul.

Let us consider the persistence of mankind, and your own individuality. You have passed through many surprising changes since you first became a self-conscious being. The psychologist tells us that the entire body goes through a complete change every seven years, and some say more frequently than that, yet we are the same identical person. Death is not supposed to destroy the real self which has gone through so many and so great changes. If the body undergoes a change every seven years, then the man seventy years old has had ten bodies and the same soul has shown through them all.

The student of ethics tells us that we take up in the future life where we leave off here. It is an evident fact that the future will be one of misery or happiness because we have such conditions though in less degree in this life. We are punished here for vice and rewarded for virtue and it is reasonable to expect same in the future life. Yet, we are not justly or fully rewarded or punished here. If we are religious and heed salvation, we are rewarded, if we are irreligious and do not heed then we must suffer the consequences. God teaches us His approval toward right and disapproval toward wrong by punishing vice and rewarding virtue. So we can be as happy or miserable in eternity as we want to be because our actions here determine our future. Don't forget whether your life is a life of happiness or misery you will begin in yonder's world where you leave off in this world.

### IV. The certainty of Immortality.

The certainty of Immortality is this, "Now is Christ risen from the dead." We no longer guess and surmise. We know whereof we speak. All of our instinctive feelings and convictions center in the Resurrection of Christ. What sort of a Resurrection will it be? A Resurrection of identity. He was, and is the same Christ who walked the dusty streets of Jerusalem and the pathless Sea of Galilee. We, too, will be the same absolutely. Death will not change our character whether pure or impure, justified or guilty. "So them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." It will be a blessed resurrection and a glorious change. Just as the life of Jesus after the resurrection was enlarged and glorified, so will be the life of those who partake of His salvation and share in His life. Have you the certainty of a glorious resurrection? Will you rise to everlasting life or to everlasting shame?

Is it not logical to believe in Immortality?

1. Man not only believes but longs and thirsts after it, whether rich or poor, learned or unlearned, barbarian, heathen, civilized, or scientific; they shudder, they quake at the thought of destruction, but with glorious anticipation look forward to Immortality.

2. The soul is the most valuable gem of all God's creation; it is immortal and is capable of happiness or misery here or hereafter. It is an undying creature, more valuable than gold and diamonds, and will live when earthly kingdoms shall have crumbled into dust, will live when the

pyramids of Egypt are leveled with the ground, will live when the lofty Alps are swayed by the mighty forces of nature, and will live when the heavens are rolled together as a scroll. Yes, the soul of man will live as long as the Lord God Omnipotent lives and reigns.

3. Every man is created with a principle in him which will live forever. Job asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" He seemed to have felt the feelings of Immortality.

4. We are in this world for preparation, being on trial for the next.

5. In this world we are to exist for a short time and afterwards, he transplanted into a better and more healthful climate where we shall grow and flourish throughout Eternity.

6. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the undertaker divorces the Spirit and body; we will need our minds and bodies in the region beyond the grave. They are our property and no one else will have use for them. There will be a glorious reunion in the Resurrection Morning when we shall have bodies fashioned like unto His glorious body, "Who is the fairest among ten thousand and the one altogether lovely." The mortal must put on Immortality and death he swallowed up in life. Then comes the question, "O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?" And a voice from Calvary will be heard saying, "Buried in the bosom of the Immaculate Christ."

V. Nature teaches Immortality.

We behold God and His teaching through nature concerning life and death. When we think of the Almighty casting off the grave clothes of winter, truly He has power to raise the dead.

Man is a little world in himself. A skillful builder might build a beautiful body in form, but it would lack necessary elements to make a man. This is the place God comes in. God has put in every human being something not found in the earthly. It cannot be found in air, sea or water. It is not carbon, nitrogen, lime, phosphate or iron. But that something is personality. "God formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life and man became a living soul." The dust after serving its purpose will return to its kindred dust while the God part enters into the realms of the Spirit with a boundless outlook. Call him not dead; he will be more alive than ever. Paul says, "To die is gain." See that little grain of wheat; how powerless it seems, but bury it in the ground and in proper time it will spring up and bring forth flower and fruit. Yet, your soul enclosed in a sinful body, warped by sin will never reach its finished development until Mortal puts on Immortality.

A belief in Immortality is universal and age-long. Every attempt to crush out Immortality has failed. A divine imprint upon man tells us he is not a creature of time but of Eternity.

Men of science falsely so called, have through the years been searching for the missing link and dropped stitch, but their task is yet unfinished. Man was created by God for a higher and nobler destiny than that of earth. Man's powers are almost unlimited. In obedience and recognition of his Maker, he can walk the golden streets, or he can leave God out and tread the road to eternal despair.

Human nature confirms the hope of Immortality. This life is a life of incompleteness. We hardly learn to be of use until we have to leave the world. By the time we have gained needed experience, we find ourselves nearing the grave. Our moral imperfections and difficulties here, point toward eternal perfection and Immortality by and by. It is here we begin, but we never finish until we are gone. Every man discovers in himself capacities and abilities this world cannot draft into service. Here we only have a portion of time to develop our powers and tests. Everything points to Immortality and a fuller life beyond. "Infinite personality called God is foreshadowed by finite personality called man." As we have borne the image of the earthy so shall we also bear the image of the Heavenly.

#### VI. Our discontent proves the Immortality of the Soul.

Human nature supplies another argument of Immortality! in our discontent. We are the most unsatisfied being's on the face of the earth. Our hearts tell us we were made to be satisfied, yet nothing in this world quite satisfies us. But every other creature finds the limit of its growth here. The ox finds its capacities satisfied and contented in the meadow and stream. The cat is satisfied with a warm place on the hearth. While our feeble ambitions ever yearn and long for sought goals that are never reached. Animals are at home and satisfied but not man. If this life ends man's activities, then a dog runs a more successful career than a man, as it lasts longer, has no risks or accidents to run and never has a broken heart.

#### VII. The character of God proves the Immortality of the Soul.

Another strong proof of Immortality is the character of God. God is justice and goodness, hence Immortality is a necessity. When the crippled and suffering child is seen, the question is asked, "Is God good?" Yes, is that child God's complete work? No, God's work is not yet finished in the child. There is another life where God's plan will be revealed and compensation made.

#### VIII. The universal belief.

Another proof of Immortality is the universal belief in the doctrine. It is believed in where the Bible has never gone. Tombs of Egypt built 5,000 years ago contain pictures representing the future state of the soul. The laws of the Hindu written a thousand years ago believe in a hereafter. The Romans and the Greeks had their heaven, and hell. The Mexicans have their paradise. The American Indians had their happy hunting ground. Immortality is not a question of argument but a universal belief. Who planted this universal belief in man? God the author of life did it. Will He plant such a belief within us and then disappoint us? Nay. When the heart ceases to beat, the soul takes up its existence in the Great Beyond. John Quincy Adams was walking down a street in Boston, met an old friend who asked, "How are you?" Adams replied, "John Quincy Adams is all right, but the house in which he lives at present is becoming dilapidated." Not long afterward, he received his second and fatal stroke. He said, "This is the last of earth and I am content." Paul says, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."

Another significant evidence of Immortality is found in human character. When your dearest friends die you have no argument then against Immortality; but you feel it, thirst for it and



long after it. Hume, the great writer of metaphysics said when he thought of his mother, he believed in Immortality then.

#### IX. Immortality is proven by the Old Testament Scriptures.

"Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him." Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. David said, "Thou wilt guide me into glory." Daniel said, "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Jeremiah speaks of God as the "Heavenly King." Isaiah says, "Neither hath the eye seen a God beside Thee." Again, David said, "In thy presence is fullness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures forevermore." These passages of Scripture of the Old Testament are sufficient to show that, the saints of God, under a dark dispensation guided by inspiration, looked beyond this vale of tears to the unfolding glories of the Resurrection Morning.

#### X. Immortality is proven by the New Testament Scriptures.

The New Testament is permeated with the blessed truths of Immortality.

1. The Incarnation-God manifested in the flesh.
2. The proof that Christ came from Eternity with the Father.
3. The mission of Christ to save lost sinners.
4. The teachings of Christ based on the life beyond the grave.

This is the life of sorrow and cross bearing, but in the life beyond will have the recompense of reward. He forever changed the truth from a rumor or dream to an established fact. Take, for instance, the raising of Lazarus from the dead. To Martha, Jesus said, "He that believeth on me though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." "In my Father's house are many mansions."

Man was the crowning work of God's creation, having body, soul, and spirit. Man lives in three realms, mental, physical and spiritual. Yet, most men live and die in the basements, of their nature. These three realms can only be reached by man through the New Birth.

God stamped the word "Eternity" upon man's very nature and started him upon a high and noble destiny. Man was not a savage or an' ape but created in the image of God and 'put in the garden for culture, , development and obedience. It was a golden age for man. Traditions tell us that all nations have their stories of a Golden Age somewhere in the far distant' past.

The next act of creation was the creation, o woman. The Lord put man to sleep and took a rib from his side and from it, He made a woman. Matthew Henry says, "Woman was formed out of man. Not out of his head to be ruled by him,, not out of his feet to be trodden upon by him, but out of his side to be his equal, to be loved, comforted and protected by him."

Man bears the marks of the divine likeness of his maker. The divine likeness in five aspects: dominion, intellect, free will, spirituality and immortality.

Man was given dominion over all animal creation. Also, he has marvelous dominion over the mysterious forces of nature. He has spanned the river, crossed the ocean and his voice has taken wings and crossed the continent until distance is annihilated and the entire world has become one great neighborhood.

The intellect of man shows a marked and wide gulf between man and the lower animals. Man is a genius and his ability is seen in his naming the animals of the earth according to their nature. Animals and birds have made no progress in building their nests and homes, but man with reason and genius has made marked progress.

Man is not a creature of necessity or of instinct, but he is to choose his own destiny. Man may rise to the heights of eternal glory or sink to eternal despair. He is free to obey or disobey God's commands. He can go upward to glory or downward to despair. He can rise to the height of an angel or he can sink to the depth of a demon. He can walk gold paved streets or he can tread the road to eternal despair. He can have fellowship with God or he can shake his fist in the face of Almighty God. He cannot blame God or any one else for his failure.

Man has a nature which impels him to be religious. He has been called a religious animal.

You can travel world over and you can find cities without literature, without kings, without theaters, or public halls, but cities were never founded without churches, chapels or temples, without some god or other.

The recognition of God as Creator gives a new meaning to life. As Creator, He has a definite claim upon our lives. When we lose confidence in Him, we are on the road to confusion and uncertainty.

A belief in Immortality is universal and age long. Every attempt to crush out Immortality has failed. A divine imprint upon man tells him he is a creature of eternity and not of time. Men of science, falsely so-called, have been searching for the missing link for years but their task is yet unfinished.

Man was created by God for a high and noble destiny. His powers are almost unlimited. He reaches his highest in recognition of his Maker and in obedience to His will and commandments. Man is more than an animal or a beast. An animal is the creature of a day but man is the creature of eternity. Man has the stamp of eternity upon his brow. It is the height of folly for man to go on in sin and expect to rise to his highest. With God, he can rise to the highest, but without Him, he will sink into darkness, defeat and despair.

Is Dying to be Dreaded?

Christ's triumph over the grave removed the mystic conception of death and Immortality. Ere this men looked forward to death with awful dread. For every believing heart, Jesus changes

the fear of the grave to joy and peace. Literary writers have referred to death as though death was God's punishment for a sinful life. Physical death did not come to Adam, the first sinful man, nor to Cain, the first murderer, but to Abel, the innocent and the righteous. The sinful brother was punished by living and the good brother was rewarded by being transplanted into a higher and better life. Death is a part of the cycle of change which God has established for everything he has created. People dread death more in health than in sickness. When the time comes, Mother Nature smoothes the way so that it's as natural as to fall asleep. For sleep, the absence of consciousness, is the twin brother to death. Let us not worry about dying grace, but keep on hands a good supply of living grace and dying grace will take care of itself. We should not' prepare to die, but rather prepare to live. After all, life is more to be dreaded than death, for life is overshadowed with temptations which mar the soul and harm the influence. Dying is an easy matter; living is solemn. Never let us look at the grave as the goal, but one more star in the firmament. Should a doubt come to the mind about the future life, remember the words of Jesus, "I was dead, but behold I am, alive forevermore and have the keys of death and hell." Ask Jesus for the key when you want some perplexing problem solved touching the future life. Jesus has lighted up the gloom of the grave and made its gates to turn on golden hinges. He made the Cross His pillow that we might pillow our heads on the precious truth of Immortality.

When we lay our dead away, we comfort ourselves with the precious assurance that what has been sown in corruption will be raised in incorruption that they will be restored to us again in forms beautiful, glorious, and Immortal; that they will be again embodied, for God will give them bodies as it pleaseth Him. What will please God will be pleasing to us. We may rest assured that they will be as perfect, and as desirable and as lovable as God with all His power and skill can make them. As II Cor. 5:1 tells us that death is simply going from one house to another. "To depart," says Paul, "is to be with Christ." "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." II Cor. 5:8.

### Personal Recognition in Heaven

The composition of our individuality symbolizes two worlds. Our body represents the present world composed of earthly elements. Our soul represents the spiritual world to which it will return when God calls for it.

Heavenly recognition is based on reason and revelation.

#### I. Reasons for heavenly recognition.

1. Death is only a physical experience. It touches the body but it cannot reach the soul. The body will die but the soul will live on forever.

2. When the body dies the soul will continue to exist. The soul lives and its faculties will live on forever. One of its faculties is memory. We will remember them and therefore will recognize them. When glorified, our identity will remain. The individuality of the soul remains the same forever. We will not get lost or mixed up with the glorified throng. The disciples recognized Jesus in His glorified body. Stephen recognized Jesus standing at the right hand of God. All

Scriptural references to messengers that come from the other world indicate that they had the appearance of human beings.

3. Another faculty of the soul's conscious individuality is love. Love never dies. No amount of physical suffering or disease ever weakens it. Infirmities of old age that sometimes dim other faculties have no power over love. Love grows stronger as we advance in years. It is evident that love is immortal. Love will still have the power of recognition. Love is of God, and therefore Christian love must be as eternal as God's love. God is love and love is from everlasting to everlasting. God's love binds our hearts together by a heavenly bond.

4. Another proof of recognition is the universal existence of this belief. All nations have held to this belief from the earliest of times. Therefore, it must have been implanted in man by the Creator. You will find it frequently referred to in the writings of the heathen sages, like Socrates and Cicero. Indians who have received no revelation from God have the belief of a future recognition and have buried with them certain implements to be used in the future life. Among the early Saxons, it was observed that a servant would slay himself to go and serve his master in another world. The infinite God did not give man such a hope only for disappointment.

II. Second, our belief in future recognition is based 'on the Word of God.

1. David said, "In thy presence is fullness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures forevermore."

2. The picture of heaven, which the Bible gives would not be fascinating if we eliminated the idea of heavenly recognition. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." The fact is the New Testament speaks of death as a homecoming and reunion. It would be strange to think of a family not being able to recognize each other. Heaven would not be a place of supreme satisfaction if we failed to recognize one another.

3. We know that the power of love and friendship will outlive death, and the powers of recognition will, also. Now, we see in a mirror darkly, but then face to face.

4. When Jesus emerged from the grave he recognized at once the ones who sought Him. He was recognized by His disciples.

5. When Moses and Elias appeared in conversation with Jesus, they were recognized by Peter, James, and John. If the disciples of Jesus could recognize the spirits of those who had been in heaven many years, will we not be able to recognize those who have been gone from us for a few years?

6. Let us be assured that our translation from this world to the next will not destroy our prominent faculties. Death is only a door and the grave is a vestibule to the King's Palace. There is no break in the soul's consciousness. To depart is to be with Christ. "To be absent from: the body is to be present with the Lord." If we shall know Him, shall we not also know all them which are His? Certainly we shall not be more ignorant there than here. Abraham said to Dives, "Son,

remember." If the spirits of the lost world remember, why not the spirits of the redeemed? Martin Luther said, "We shall know each other on sight." We shall want to interview the saintly characters of the Bible. We shall want to tell our indebtedness to those who stood by us in life. It might be possible you have contemplated asking forgiveness of some one for something you have failed to make fully right while on earth. For fear you will not be allowed that privilege you had better get matters adjusted and all wrinkles ironed out now. Thomas Chalmers was asked by his wife, "Dear, do you think we shall know each other in heaven?" He replied, "Do you think we will be bigger fools in heaven than we are on earth?"

### Sorrow, Its Meaning and Ministry

Wherever you go you find hearts wounded by sorrow. Death has cut many a gash that all the Flowers of Spring cannot bandage. Can you find a home in which grief in some form has not frequented? Almost every soul you meet has some sacred and tender memory. We receive visions of glory and of heaven which can be gained no other way than by sorrow. For instance, John the Revelator, banished to the Isle of Patmos to die, by the cruel Roman Emperor, but God was in it and he received that wonderful revelation, the Book of Revelation, from God.

1. The Book of Revelation reveals to us that the Spirit Land is near. Heaven is always near to those who are heavenly minded. Its sights and sounds are only shut out by the walls of the flesh. Now and then, God permits certain glimpses to encourage our faith and strengthen us in the battle while we wait for heaven to open to us.

2. John describes heaven as a painless land. The inhabitants never say, "I am sick." We sometimes speak of this world as the land of the living when in reality it is the land of the dying.

3. John saw a mighty company of the redeemed, a select gathering, a multitude that no man could number. Heaven is a city of twelve gates. No one can count the roads leading to the city. This company were arrayed in white robes of purified character, woven of the threads of trouble. These are they that come up out of great tribulation. They tell us that it takes all the colors of the rainbow to make white. Perhaps you have had all of seven kinds of trouble and more.

1. Earnings of a lifetime swept away through business reverses.

2. Have become helpless invalids.

3. Experienced failing health.

4. They have given up former luxuries even necessities and comforts of life.

5. Some have been martyrs.

6. Others have endured domestic hindrances, been misunderstood and slanderously accused.

7. Others have had perpetual struggles; inherited appetites and a sinful past to overcome (after forgiveness was received).

The faithful whom John saw were satisfied for they realized the meaning of their troubles. White is the color of victory, the flag of truce that wins the war. As some one has said, "The mountains that lift themselves highest above their fellows are crowned with the pure radiance of the snow. The torrent that leaps victoriously over the rocky obstacles breaks into dazzling masses of white foam. The plants that struggle hardest with adverse conditions throw out white blossoms to the breeze, just as the pond lily signifies its triumph over the mud by its white petals."

John observed the redeemed as they stood before the throne of God. The highest honor possible. Many are never great in this world; they hold no place of distinction, their names never get in print, but they are faithful to humble duties. Now they are before the throne of God. How foolish the fierce struggles some make to achieve the applause of men, for when Time merges into Eternity,

Will seem like Writing one's name in the sand or scratching it on a block of ice in the summer sun. The only worthwhile: place for your name is in the Book of Life, where God registers Christian character, as only Christian character goes with us to the Throne of God. All other things we accumulate, titles, honor, and property are laid aside when we pass through the doorway of death.

We claim our loved ones but God has a claim on them, too. We want them here, but He needs them there. We have plans for them here, but He has better plans for them there.

Yes, to those who die in Christ death is gain. Gain in knowledge for they abide among the infinite intelligences of Heaven. They have been released from the limitations of the flesh; they grow from character to character, growing in the likeness of Christ. We feel we need our friends and cannot spare them here but God needs them there and their work has just properly begun; they being dead, yet they speak and they live. "The memory of the Just is blessed, but the name of the wicked shall rot." Prov. 10:7.

We are inclined to question the dealings of God but by and by all mysteries shall be made dear. All disappointments here will be revealed as His appointments there. All the events of life that we thought to have gone wrong will prove to have been blessings in disguise.

#### 1. The wisest and the best of all ages have believed in the Immortality of the Soul.

There is not a nation or a tribe of whom history furnishes an account that did not with greater or less clearness believe in a future life. Yet many of their views have been obscure and unsatisfactory.

In the darkest hours of life all men long for Immortality. When sickness comes upon you and the death angel is at the door, and you are but a step from the grave, then it is easy to believe right and without an effort you become a firm believer in the Immortality of the Soul.

2. The innate desire of the soul is to live again.

A certain heathen read Plato's discourses on Immortality, went to the highest cliff and jumped off that he might immediately enter Immortality.

France denounced the Truth of God and said death was an eternal sleep and there was no God but Reason. She also blasphemed the Word of God in the streets of Paris, and today France is paying expensively for such an experience and such a belief.

3. The unequal distribution of rewards and punishments in this life proves the Immortality of the Soul.

The wicked and the guilty pass by unpunished and the innocent is often crushed under the iron heel of Power. Here many escaped punishment due their crime. Frequently the devout pass through the furnace of affliction. But Justice will not sleep forever. The wicked will not always escape, neither will the righteous go forever unrewarded.

4. The doctrine of Immortality is encouragement to the Christian. The Saints of Old testified in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. They had trials, cruel mockings and imprisonment; they were stoned; they were sawn asunder; they were tempted, and they were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheep skins and goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, and tormented. They wandered in deserts and in mountains and in dens and caves of the earth.

Their faith pierced the impossible and rose to worlds above and fastened on to the inheritance in the celestial city. They counted not their lives dear unto themselves in the face of frowns and scoffs of the world and many became martyrs to the holy cause. In the darkest hour, they could cry out, "O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?" You erase the hope from the Christian's heart and he is at once enshrouded with impenetrable darkness. But let this hope bloom in his life and he can smile amidst the storms of life, rejoice in tribulation and with glorious anticipation look forward to a life beyond. The true Christian can rejoice though the storm rages and the tempests howl. Yes, the saints of God under every dispensation have looked beyond this vale of tears to the Unfolding glories of the Resurrection Morning. We will be able to spread our wings and fly away to the heights of heaven and there mingle with Seraphim and Cherubim and the patriarchs of all ages. Many have been buried for Centuries, but they are still living and God is still their God.

He who numbers the hairs of the head and notices the falling sparrows, by His triumphant Resurrection hath abolished death and brought life and Immortality to light. He will see we are there, back in our original state, and this is our future hope, to live with Him forever.

A hope of the future life has inspired many along the rough pathway of life. In the famous paintings and noble deeds of mankind, others have caught the same spirit. The dying saint catches the same spirit and is heard to quote in the dying hour, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil for thou art with me." The unbeliever has vainly said, "Your hopes concerning the future life are but dreams:" If so we say, "Let us dream on." Our greatest hope is the existence of another life after this one is over. Paul says that "If in this life only we

have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." I Cor. 15:19. Science says, "There may be a future life." Philosophy says, "There ought to be a future life." The Bible says, "There is a future life."

True science never did deny the existence of a future life. Isaac Newton started to write a book on infidelity but was converted before he completed the book. A scientist was giving his views about the future life when Newton said, "Stop. You don't know what you are talking about. I like to hear you talk about astronomy but you know nothing about the future life. So keep quiet." The future life is not any more mysterious than the present life, as our every day life is shrouded in mysteries. Many of the world's greatest thinkers and scholars have been advocates of a future life. This hope is refreshing to the weary Pilgrim along the pathway of life.

It takes a musician to appreciate music, an artist to appreciate art, a scientist to appreciate science, a philosopher to appreciate philosophy. And a Christian alone can fully appreciate and understand the future life.

The Bible tells us all necessary to know about the future life. If it said more about heaven we might get homesick to go; if it told all the horrors of hell we might become insane. Many prophecies uttered hundreds of years before they came to pass 'is proof of their inspiration.

Ill. A young lady who was grieving over the death of her Mother, saw her Mother in a dream. She said, "Mother, you were dead." Her Mother answered, "I was dead but I am alive to live forevermore." The lady told me that after that dream she never grieved any more over the death of her Mother.

We bow at the feet of a crucified Lord but risen Savior. The grave could not hold Him; because He lives we shall live also. This Resurrection is the foundation on which the Church was built. It is the outstanding event of Bible History. It is the established doctrine of our Holy Christianity. It is a pledge of our resurrection. Not faith in a dead Christ or an empty tomb, but faith in one who sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for you and me.

The Resurrection Is--

1. An absolute proof of His deity.

2. It proclaims to the universe a complete redemption.
3. His Resurrection is assurance of our Immortality. The Bible sparkles and glows with this great theme. Prophets of old mounted the heights of inspiration and told it. Jesus declared He would live again. One throb of His pulse was sufficient to roll the stone away, break the seal, and paralyze the guard.

1. His Resurrection is a pledge of our resurrection.

2. His Resurrection enables saints to shout victory over death.

Alfred Cookman said, "I am sweeping through the gates washed in the blood of the Lamb." The thought of the resurrection kindles the fire of hope in us. We may be buried in the icy North,



sunny South, hills of the East or plains of the West; when the first trumpet sounds, we shall be found. If living, gravitation will be reversed, and we will meet just over the treetops.

Ill. Browning said, "Don't think of me as being dead; I am just away and more alive than ever."

3. The strongest argument in favor of the resurrection is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the outstanding event of Bible History and is the only hope of the Bible Christian. Job in distress and torment said, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

Ill. Socrates was unjustly put to death. He was surrounded by a crowd of philosophers, and they tried to get him to deny the Immortality of the Soul, but he would not. Hence, they made him drink a cup of poison hemlock from which he died. Socrates died like a philosopher. Paul died like a Christian. Christ died like a God.

But one says, "Can you tell me of one person who has returned from the other world to tell me if there be a further life." Yes, there is such a man. He was put to death and blood flowed from His wounded sides, while wounded for our transgressions. He died of a broken heart. He was pronounced dead by the civil authorities. After three days, he arose victoriously over the grave and showed himself to many by infallible proofs. He conquered death and the grave. He brought life and Immortality to light through the Gospel. He is your Savior and mine. He died, "The just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." I Pet. 3:18. "He who never committed sin was made a sin offering for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Cor. 5:21. Does He live in your heart and life? Your body may die but your spirit may be with Christ until the time comes for His return. Those who are alive at that great event will not have to die, but they will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. "Mortal shall have put on Immortality. Death will be swallowed up in victory. Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," I Cor. 15:51-57.

#### A SERMONETTE

##### "Immortality"

This is the most important subject of mortal life and human destiny, which prompted the troubled patriarch to ask that momentous question for which centuries have given no answer: "If a man die shall he live again?" It is an old question yet it has not lost its freshness. It has been asked and answered many times, and the answers have often widely differed one from the other. Sometimes it has been a confidential yes; again an equivocal no. This question, though now easily answered, was formerly one of great doubt among the wisest of men. Philosophers have labored earnestly to solve the mystery; logicians have reasoned about it; preachers have preached about it; theologians have argued about it, yet in perplexity they have failed to obtain a clear knowledge of the realms beyond the grave. Hence the Bible is the only book that gives us definite news from the undiscovered country.

The seed of immortality has been planted in the breast of every human being. Yet we cannot estimate the value of the soul by men's actions and attitude towards religion. All nations

have some idea of a future existence. During the Dark Ages when darkness, illiteracy and superstition reigned supremely and the world was groping in sin and ignorance, groups of people were found in different cities who were united for the purpose of religious practices, based upon faith and immortality; who believed that the soul was divine in origin and spiritual in nature, and that it was in bondage and the only remedy was righteousness and purification. Immortality seemed to have been stamped indelibly upon all nations by the finger of God.

There is much in this doctrine which reminds us of the Christian life, the Messianic faith, the final contest, the general judgment and the resurrection which appears and reappears in the teaching of immortality. The wicked must be raised as well as the good that divine justice may be publicly vindicated. There is to be a final conflict in which the good will triumph over the evil. There will be a universal judgment, as a result of which all the wicked are to be cast into hell, and the good received into the fellowship of the God of light and into the happiness of His everlasting kingdom.

To look at the soul as going from strength to strength and consider that it is to shine forever in glory and will be going from virtue to virtue and knowledge to knowledge. Surely it must be pleasing to God to see His creatures forever as they beautify before his eyes and draw nearer to Him by greater degree of resemblance.

It is a good thing that we know but little about the life to come, for it enables us to concentrate our attention upon the life that now is, which is the only safeguard against unprofitable speculation. But we should remember that now is the appointed time for work, for study, for service, for experience, for insight, for repentance, for consecration, for justice, for mercy, and for holiness. It is a story of wonderful fascination. No greater subject has ever challenged mortal intellect. It shows the way in which the human spirit has triumphed over intellectual difficulties, and won peace and security through faith in a God whose love and power extends beyond the grave. This faith has conquered the world. It is the Christ of history, the prophet of Nazareth, the atoning Savior, the conqueror of death, who brought life through immortality.

Poets have sought to decorate death with garland and imagery. Friends have covered the grave with exquisite flowers and grasses. Philosophers have decked the sepulcher with gorgeous attire. The productions of the artist have beautified our cemeteries with marble monuments and lifelike statues and figures. But without faith in Christ and His resurrection power, death is still king of terror, and the only thing that beautifies the graveyard is the hope of the resurrection and faith in immortality. It attributes to the efficiency of the individual. It makes us happier, stronger and more successful in our daily living. It helps to comfort and aid in life's misfortunes. It is our consolation in bereavements, our compensation for failures. When death robs us of friends we look forward to a meeting by and by when justice will be defended and wrongs righted.

Every man lives in the center of a circle whose fatal circumference he cannot pass. And within its narrow limits he lives, and if he goes beyond it he perishes. But then if immortality is not merely a delusive dream but a reality, we take up the future world where we leave off here. Then if we dread to die we should fear to live. For life is a reality and all things show it. I used to think so, but now I know it. Our destiny is settled in this life and death introduces us either to the pains of hell or bliss of heaven. But in the hour of death hope sees a star, and while listening silently we

hear through faith the wings of angels that have come to convey the spirit away to the regions of eternal felicity. While in love with life and enraptured with the world, upon your brow will fall the golden dawn of eternal day. For as surely as God raised Christ from the dead by the glory of the Father, so sure will He preserve for the joy and service of His kingdom those who in this life have made covenant with Him by sacrifice.

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## Part II

### "The Home of the Soul"

Time is probationary and as long as we are in time we are on probation. As long as we are on probation there is a tendency to neglect preparation for the great hereafter.

Just now we are floating down the stream of time, but only a matter of time until we will plunge into the ocean of eternity.

You, who are going down the slope of life, be encouraged, look up; some day you will dwell in a tabernacle which will never be folded or become weather beaten. Tomorrow you may put on immortality. Today you may be lame but tomorrow you may walk amidst the trees whose leaves are for the healing" of the Nations and then you will experience pain and sickness no more forever. "There the wicked cease from troubling and the weary be at rest."

From the day in which God drove Adam out of Paradise (the Garden) placing in the gate a flaming sword which kept everyone from entering until the day in which Malachi announced, "Unto you that fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings," our information concerning the Home of the Soul was very indistinct and vague. For a period of about 400 years, the door seemed to have been shut. John the Baptist began his ministry by saying, "Repent ye for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." It was not until Christ our Lord and Savior came down from heaven that the gates of the celestial city were discussed and became distinctly discerned.

During the long centuries preceding the coming of our Lord, the land of Canaan was the only heaven people seemed to have known very much about. To them it was an exceeding good land; a land flowing with milk and honey; a land of grapes and pomegranates and figs. With but few exceptions it was hard to get people to rise above this theory of heaven.

In heaven we will not be bothered with pains which are so common in the walks of life; but our time will be given wholly to the worship of the One who is absolutely immaculate.

We find in His service indication and earnestness of the happiness of heaven. Yet, we understand His service involves a self-denial and self-sacrifice not demanded in any other walk of life. We should not count our lives dear unto us. The disciple should be as his Master, and the servant as his Lord Jesus Christ affirmed Himself, "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all

that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Jesus is the first at the cradle to hear our feeble cry. He is the last to hold our hand as we slip quietly into the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

We see His footprints along the shores of Time. What a privilege it is to have Him walk by our side. We hear a voice saying, "I have been with thee. I am with thee. I will be with thee. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

Our bodies will finally die, be buried, and will mold in the grave, but the time will come when the Almighty will impart life again into the muscles and sinews; the pulse again will beat with ecstasy, the eyes will flash with light celestial, and our vocal chords will again sound the praises to Heaven's King. Then death will be swallowed up in victory, then mortal will put on Immortality and the corruptible will put on incorruption. Then comes the saying, "O, Death, where is thy sting? O, Grave, where is thy victory?"

"There is but a step between me and death." I Sam. 20:3. God serves notice on us that we are judgment bound. We are creatures of two worlds, living here and expecting to live hereafter. The essential prerequisite for the next world is preparation.

Sin separates the sinner from among the pure. It compels him to dwell in the society of those who are like himself. This is the inevitable tendency of sin. In this world, separation is but partial. But in the next world separation will be complete and final. All sinners in one place and saints in another. The Bible speaks of heaven and the same Bible speaks of hell. Heaven is the eternal abode of the saints. Heaven is also called a city, the New Jerusalem. Hell is a place somewhere outside of the city of our God. As surely as the law of Moses shut all lepers out of ancient Jerusalem, so the law of God shuts all sinners out of the New Jerusalem, the place of our final abode.

This may seem hard on the sinner but how can it be helped? If men will be sinners, they must take what follows, and sometimes what follows is terrific and tragic. Your sins have separated you from God. If not washed away with the blood of Christ, they will keep you out of heaven. It is best for all concerned that sinners be separated from Christians. The Christian's future abode will be heaven, while the future abode of the sinner will be the pest-house of hell.

The Bible tells us who we are, where we came from, what we are here for and where we are going. And how to get there. In the Morning will be: 1. The closing of life's labors. 2. The separation of dearest of friends. 3. The fixing of human destinies. It will be: 1. Morning of rest from earthly trials and weariness. 2. Morning of delightful service. 3. Morning of clear vision. 4. Morning of glad reunion. 5. Morning never clouded by the shadow of death. 6. Morning of freedom from pain and suffering.

But 'in the fullness of time the Redeemer came; then it was an ancient order to discuss heavenly felicity from every angle. When He came, He brought us much information in regard to heaven being both a place and a state.

The sacred teaching about heaven is as indispensable to the Christian as the multiplication table is indispensable to him who would be proficient in mathematics.

Thus, for example, the Holy Ghost by the pen of the Apostle said, "In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare place for you."

In heaven, prayer will be exchanged for praise and unmixed gratitude for blessings, the value of which we shall then realize. Nevertheless there will be prayer in heaven as well as praise. Heavenly prayer will likely be more fervent than terrestrial prayer. After glorification our prayers will likely be more reasonable than many we hear in this world.

Heaven is a state while yet on earth. The sufferings of this present world are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed. Being human there are times when tears will flow like rain and then there are times when there are no tears shed unless those of love, joy, and thanksgiving. There may be times in life when you feel like swimming in a flood of glory as God pours it upon you, and your happiness will be begun which will last forever.

Someone has well said -- "The fullness of heaven is Jesus Himself.

The duration of heaven is the eternity of Jesus. The light of heaven is the face of Jesus. The joy of heaven is the presence of Jesus. The melody of heaven is the name of Jesus. The harmony of heaven is the praise of Jesus. The theme of heaven is the works of Jesus.

The employment of heaven is the service of Jesus," See that saint upon the dying bed. He or she may have no sympathy and no background of religious training. But they have a foretaste of heaven. They have set their house in order for they are going to die and not live. Yet we are not going to die. It is only dust returning to dust. The grave will have no victory in it. Our Savior said, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." I am to be translated into a heavenly life. My poor body will be at rest, but my soul will be going forward in rapid and heavenly progression. I will not fear for safety, because I will be holding to my Father's never failing hand. "For I know that my Redeemer liveth."

God has made us rational beings and established for us a code of laws and placed us on probation under a system of rewards and punishments. Our reason and conscience will have a free hand in helping to direct us and everyone will receive according to the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or evil.

This is a life of sighs and sorrows, moans and maladies, troubles, and tears, griefs and groans and the groaning and the shrieks of the dying constantly remind us of the fact that this world is not our home. There is something about us that longs for that blissful abode.

In this world we have a mixture of sin and righteousness, sin largely predominating. The natural longing of every heart is for righteousness unmixed with sin. In the midst of opposition and conflicts we need our attention called from the cares of life to a better world. Having a foretaste of heaven we need to awaken sinners, arouse backsliders to return, lead believers 'into holiness and encourage the sanctified to press courageously and victoriously toward a better country of which we often delight to think, read, and hear.

We are in the greatest warfare of the ages and are called on to be soldiers. Do you have on the entire armor? Could the Lord who appointed you, leave, return, and find you at your post? The Lord has an armor and an outfit to make you a real soldier, You can be ready for the conflict, ready for sacrifice, ready for action, and ready to die.

Our citizenship is in heaven. While on the way to heaven we should not sit around with hands folded and worship an experience and nurse a blessing when a lost world is calling for help. Our citizenship involves duty as well as privilege. The real heaven is not space beyond the Milky Way, but it is the enlargement of capacity for influence here, going about doing good, an enlargement of mind, heart, and soul, and the enjoyment of the world now in. Our religion must not be theoretical and visionary only, but objective, real, and practical. Let us enter the arena of everyday life with high courage, steady faith and a determination to demonstrate practical holiness and have a heaven to go to heaven in.

It is with a heart full of joy that we can look forward to the time when God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, for we shall never say good-bye in heaven. In this world, decay and disappointment are written upon everything, but we can look forward to a home where there will be no change, "Incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away." It is blessed to think of heaven being as unchangeable as God Himself. A home God planned,. God built, God furnished and God finished. Home with the eternal God, the Home of the Soul.

Many have entered sin's smooth highway which leads straight to the gates of hell. On and on they will sweep passing rocks, cliffs, and gloomy deserts. As they near the falls, they can hear the thunders of hell. But don't forget that all has been done that infinite wisdom and boundless grace could devise. But all has failed. The hands that hold the scales of destiny have locked these gates forever, and there is no way of escape. On you may pass through the regions of the lost in search for a long lost friend. It is all night. You will pass howling demons, cursing fiends, sneering imps and writhing souls as they long for death but will never die.

See that hideous demon-like being yonder, in a dungeon of fire with contempt branded upon his brow. That is your long looked for friend who has been absent from the earth all these years. In this dark world there is no singing birds or blooming flowers. All is shrouded with the blackness of darkness and gloom and that forever. Since leaving this world he has not had one moment's relief from anguish and pain. The undying worms and the poisonous fangs of the forked tongue demons have fed continually upon his undying conscience. There would be a jubilee in hell if lost souls could die and every black valley would echo a shout of victory. In hell he is always dying and never dies. He wrings his hands, tears his hair and gnaws his tongue, as he thinks of lost opportunities in this world and the length of hell in the next. He stands horrified, demon possessed, and demonized as he pauses on the brink of the lake of fire ere he plunges in seeking rest but finds none.

See! See! I am forever lost in hell in spite of all my resolutions not to go. I am here to suffer the demands of a broken law. Death and the judgment are past. The day of mercy is gone forever. I would not heed the warning voice of God, though it thundered in my ears from the cradle to the grave. I sold out for a trifle and am now reaping for a life spent in sin and rebellion.

Let me remind you of a matter of infinite importance. One hundred billion people have been buried in the past. They were once healthy, busy and as important as you are. Many of them have been gone a long time from this world, but the world is getting along nicely without them. Where are they? The world will some day get along nicely without you and where will you be? You never before had as little time to live on as you have now. It is but a short step between you and the grave. Death is nearer you with his icy hand and muddy spade than you ever dreamed. You cannot see one moment ahead of you. You may be in five steps of death's: dark river, the jumping off place. Is all necessary preparation made? That person has not lived yet who is wise enough to find a path leading back to yesterday's mercies, privileges and opportunities. The masses will never see the importance of living right until they see themselves by the light of death's lantern.

You may reject and despise holiness now, but it will be the password at the gate of heaven.

## Facts About Heaven

### I. Heaven is a state.

To be right with God is to be in a heavenly state. The Kingdom of God is within you; which is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

In joy or sadness, sorrow or pain, storm or calm, health or sickness, adversity or prosperity, with friends, or friendless, in life or death, if we have Jesus we have a foretaste of what awaits us, a Heaven to go to Heaven in.

"Once Heaven seemed a far off place Till Jesus showed His smiling face; Now it's begun within my soul, 'Twill last while endless ages roll."

Some things in this world will not be in heaven: 1. Sin, 2. Sorrow, 3. Separation.

Heaven will be a land of singing. It will be the voice of a great multitude.

At the home coming near Louisville, Kentucky years ago when the Statue of Stephen Foster was unveiled by two ladies, 150 instruments began playing, out of 25,000 people assembled one could hardly see a dry eye. There will be a great home coming in glory some day; then we will sing the songs of redemption. The very best from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people will be there. God's family of all ages will be there. Then we can meet those we have loved, lived and labored with.

Some of the attractions of heaven will be, Old Testament Saints, New Testament Saints and others whose names are in the Book of Life, and the martyrs who sealed their faith with their blood. Our loved ones will be there, but first of all we will want to see Jesus who redeemed us with His precious blood. The Old Ship of Zion has landed many thousand and can land as many more. Fitness for heaven will be holiness of heart and life, in other words, regeneration and entire sanctification.

The simplest interpretation of Hebrews 12:14 is that heaven is a Holy Place and if we enter heaven we must as a prerequisite obtain holiness. This plain truth shuts the gate of heaven to every unholy person; hence all will be excluded who are void of this grace. Whether great or small, learned or ignorant, rich or poor, no one can enter but those who have been made holy and must be in a present enjoyment of the experience.

False religions of this world have erroneous views about heaven.

1. The Hindu idea of heaven is a land of dreamless sleep, where all lose their identity, individuality and consciousness, which is swallowed up by the Great Spirit.

2. The Greek and Roman heaven will be a land of beautiful landscapes where all will be half conscious; no premium on character and no distinction between vice and virtue found there.

3. The Indian's heaven is a happy hunting ground where game will be plentiful and the white man's face will never intrude or disturb.

4. The Mohammedan heaven is a place of selfishness and sensuality. When they come to cross the streams all will be greeted with white camels and golden saddles and have golden cups to drink from the stream. All continue the journey until they reach a Mansion of Pearls. There will be servants to attend and wait on them throughout all eternity.

5. The Mormon heaven will be a place of sensuality and revelry.

6. The Bible view of heaven.

False views of heaven should cause us to fully appreciate and enjoy more of heaven.

(1) Heaven is a place of residence. We get tired here (get tired in the way but not tired of the way). Our bodies are worn, our nerves are taxed. It is beyond our power, skill, and genius to adequately portray the glories of heaven.

(2) In heaven all will have enjoyment without weariness. Here our brains are taxed until we naturally wear out. In heaven we will be employed in the service and worship of the King and never get tired or hoarse. Our labors will be celestialized, spiritualized, and glorified.

(3) Triumph without conflict will characterize heaven. We will rise without pushing others down, but not so here. Here we are elected, others defeated or vice versa.

(4) The society of heaven will be without temptation. Society may tempt here, but in heaven we will be with the saints only.

(5) Heaven will be without sin. No sin in heaven; out of sight of sin. Holiness is universal there. No holiness fighters in heaven, Heaven is a prepared habitation for a prepared people.



Reader, imagine if you can a world without a devil. No more graft, no more stealing, robbery, murder, kidnapping, drunkenness, or suffering of any kind. Not even a single disappointment will ever mar that heavenly world that every Christian is heir to, Brethren, this will be worthwhile.

(6) Perfection without faults. We're full of faults, mistakes, and imperfections here, but when glorified we will be freed from human imperfections.

(7) Union without separation. To say good-bye here brings sadness. There we will meet to never part again.

(8) Happiness, without end. Here We are tempted, tried, grieved, and burdened, But when faith is lost in sight our happiness will never end.

### The Love of God and Heaven Are Closely Related

1. God's love is seen in the creation of man's first home. 2. God's presence was there. 3. This home was tainted by sin. 4. Last book of the Bible gives an account of man's eternal home. 5. In man's first home sin entered. 6. In his eternal home sin cannot enter. 7. Between man's first and second home is the battle ground.

### Necessary Equipment:

1. Whatever is necessary to get us to heaven is taught in the Bible.
2. Whatever is necessary to get us to heaven is preached by the God called preacher.
3. Whatever is necessary to get us to heaven is majored in by the Christian.
4. Whatever is necessary to get us to heaven we can have every moment.
5. Whatever is necessary to get us to heaven is within our reach.
6. Whatever is necessary to get us to heaven we can embrace as a privilege.

### II. Heaven is a place.

A kingdom, a city, an inheritance, a dwelling place, Father's home of many mansions. It is a place somewhere. This world is not our abiding place. We must live somewhere. One cannot conceive of drifting here upon the Ocean of Time, then going out into nothingness. We are born with a higher destiny than that of earth. Heaven is a world free from sin; streets are gold; walls are jasper; inhabitants are holy angels and the saints of all ages. The beauties of heaven give us a hint as to the greatness of heaven. It is a place He has prepared for His own somewhere out yonder in the universe. From heaven, we will doubtless look back to this world where the battle of human redemption was fought. There will be no sin in heaven. Two places you will find no sin, in a pure

heart and in heaven. "There will in no wise enter into it anything that defileth," but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

This world is filled with sorrows, sighs, groans, tears, and heartaches. Sorrow is written upon almost every life. There sorrow will never cloud the brow, tears will never blind the eyes nor stain the cheeks. If the Bible described all the beauties and glories of heaven we would get so homesick to go that our lives might be useless here. Yet we find in the Bible all that is necessary for us to know about heaven, as such information is no where else fully revealed. While the Old Testament offers us very little information along this line that the average person would naturally desire, yet we get much information from the New Testament. Also Jesus Christ gives us up-to-date information along this subject. The Bible does tell us that heaven is a city, it has its walks, mansions, and foundations. Uncleaness will never be allowed to enter; it will be ruled over by love. A place of unbroken fellowship. A place of supreme happiness, beauty, harmony and music; all day, no night, no darkness, sin, sorrow, death, disease, and trouble. Will see God, Jesus, Apostles and prophets and the redeemed of every age. There we gladly and willingly do the will of God.

The Bible speaks of heaven as "A Paradise restored, a city, a city of God, a better country, a temple, a kingdom, a dwelling place, God's throne, our Father's House of Many Mansions." In a sense heaven is everywhere, because God is everywhere, but heaven is somewhere in particular. To the sorrowing disciples Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you."

1. He is going away to prepare a home.

2. He is coming again to receive the prepared. When that place has been prepared and completed there will not be one thing left for us to add. We may try and think of heaven until we bewilder the mind and stagger the imagination, but heaven will far surpass all earthly beauties combined.

Heaven will be the great Metropolis of God's people. Home of God's millions from the battlefields of the world; those who have known the curse and blight of sin and the power of redeeming grace. Just what relationship this redeemed world will sustain toward the Heavenly Universe, we do not know. But it will be the place where Jesus Christ met sin, death, and hell; where the great battle of human redemption was fought; and where the victory was won that redeemed a guilty race.

Heaven is a place where beauty is perfect. But the most beautiful thing of earth will be nothing compared with the beauty of heaven. The most exquisite music here will be no comparison to the music of heaven. That heavenly melody, that sublime and blissful music will hold every ear a captive to its sound. After meeting our Saviour face to face then there will be the blood washed millions clothed in white robes and wearing starry crowns. What a glorious and blood bought privilege it will be to hear that Heavenly Choir and hear the voice of the Son of God which will be more melodious than an instrument of a thousand strings. Heaven means, being with Christ, beholding His face, a crown of righteousness, a crown of glory, a crown of life, an incorruptible crown, inheritance eternal, everlasting life, a home eternal in the heavens, a city which hath foundations, an eternal weight of glory.

Heaven is a place where decay never gnaws beauty. Where time never writes a wrinkle. Where death never digs a grave. Where frost never comes. Where rivers never freeze over. Where flowers never fade. Where walls are jasper. Where gates are pearl. Where the streets are paved with gold. Where you never telephone for the doctor for no one ever gets sick in that city. Where the undertaker is never called as no one dies there. The oldest inhabitants never witnessed death in that city. Crape is never hung on the door knob. The hearse is never seen and graveyards are unknown.

Heaven is strictly and properly a place. God has not left us in the dark upon a subject of such vital importance as to the future life. The first impression one gets from reading the Bible concerning heaven is that it is a locality somewhere in God's Universe. Hence most Christians without questioning their views have intuitively that belief of another world. This impression is piously and pleasantly cherished. Reckless speculators in all their research work have not furnished anything better. Even learned men who have examined the Christian's ideas have found them pleasant to cherish and believe.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. If you are going there you had better get in tune now. This city is well built and well guarded whose builder and maker is God. A belief in heaven is universal. A hope of heaven is refreshing, to the tired and weary Pilgrim along the stormy and dusty pathway of life.

#### The Way to Heaven

1. It is a narrow way.
2. It is a holy way.
3. It is a difficult way.
4. It is a safe way.
5. It is a well guarded way.
6. It is free and open to all.

a. In heaven there is work without weariness. b. In heaven there is joy without sorrow. c. In heaven there is a safety without danger. d. In heaven there is rest without end.

The ancient nations have always located for themselves somewhere a heaven which was the object of their supreme desire and hopes. The superstitious pagans have found a home for their dead beyond the misty sea. Their fancy located beautiful islands never visited by mortals. In their imagination they could see beds of flowers, shady walks, cool retreats, the most beautiful grass, quiet valleys, crystal streams, sparkling fountains, and skies unclouded, and the air full of odors of unearthly sweetness. This would be the hope of weary spirits and the thought of such would make the ills of life more easy, and the thought of death more comfortable. Their leaders taught them that if they would live lives of virtue according to the pagan standard, that at death they would be taken away to these abodes of peace and blessedness.

The Christian's heaven is a place of blessed victory and glorious triumph. This world is a battlefield but heaven is a place where battles will be history. This is the land of the sword;

heaven is a land of the crown. This is the land of bloodshed; heaven is a land of white robes and shouts of victory. Oh, what a thrill of joy to know the last battle has been fought and the victory won. Because of sin being overthrown and Satan defeated shouts of universal victory will rise from the redeemed and bloodwashed.

Heaven is a place. "I go to prepare a place for you." Heaven is the home of the saints. Heaven is a permanent place. Earthly surroundings are transitory, passing, changing, and decaying. This world is but a place to tent and camp. Heaven is a better country that is an heavenly. It is a place of happiness because of its surroundings. Another thing about, heaven will be its riches. Earth may boast of her riches here, but earth's riches are but rags and poverty compared to the riches of heaven. Some riches of heaven will be God the Father, Jesus Christ, Angels, the redeemed, our loved ones, the crown that fadeth not away, tree of life, harps of gold, white robes, and mansions. Every man will receive his own reward according to his labors. Here we labor and toil, there we rest.

There we expect the "Well done" of Jesus. Jesus will be the supreme reward.

1. Life is the place to prepare for eternity. Your life here settles where you will spend eternity. Not a place to get rich and have a good time. Life is too serious and too short for that.

2. Death should be prepared for. To neglect preparation is the height of folly and soul suicide. Whether your destiny is for heaven or hell it will be for all eternity. Your destiny is determined by your attitude toward Jesus Christ and vital salvation.

You need not be lost.

(1) A road has been opened. (2) A way has been prepared. (3) A remedy has been provided.

"Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow."

Heaven is a city never built with the human hands. A city whose inhabitants no census has ever numbered. A city through whose streets business has never rushed. A city through whose streets a hearse has never passed. A city without births and deaths. A city which glories in having Jesus for its king, angels for its guards, saints for its citizens, whose walls are jasper, whose gates are pearls, and whose streets are paved with gold.

Heaven will release you from all troubles of this life. Every earthly pain will be eased, all trials over, and all tears dried up forever.

Lazarus, the beggar, had no money, no friends, no social influence. He committed the unpardonable sin of being a beggar. He was ostracized, friendless, lived without money, died

without friends, and buried without tears. But who can comprehend what heaven means to him today?

The deep felt need of the human heart calls for a touch of the divine. This need is as universal as mankind. There was a great unbridged and unspanned chasm between man and God. Man looked the world over for something he knew not what and found no relief. Philosophers have groped about in the dim light of natural religion and have only found fragments of truth to increase their misery. Sinai called for a divine person. Enoch was a good man and walked with God 300 years, but he could not bridge the chasm; Abraham was the father of the faithful, a friend of God, but he could not; Job was a perfect man but he could not. When the whole world was sweeping to hell and ruin, Jesus Christ made the connection. He spanned the gulf. He established a wireless connection and heaven is no longer far away, but is brought nigh by the blood of Christ. He reached back to the Garden of Eden and forward to the Great White Throne and made heaven possible providing we do our part.

Did you ever think of various characters being introduced in heaven?

This is the woman who gave a cup of cold water in His name. This is the woman that fed the hungry tramp. This is the girl who read the Bible to the blind. This is the Mother who brought all her family to Christ.

This is the Mother who read and prayed with the sick and dying. This is the man who stood the test in spite of opposition. This is the pious school teacher whose constant instruction along religious lines proved to be religious background for the future.

This is the Christian homemaker who was more interested in the religious condition of her home than she was in social activity.

This is the man who was faithful in maintaining a family altar, attending upon all the means of grace and faithful in financing the work of the Kingdom.

This is the faithful Sunday School teacher who stuck to the old land marks and led her pupils to Christ.

This is the faithful Sunday School Superintendent who was never known to shirk responsibility.

This is the faithful physician who administered to the spiritual needs of his patients as well as to the physical.

This is the full-salvation preacher who never failed to declare the whole counsel of God.

This is the faithful missionary who was willing to leave the comforts of home and Christian civilization that those that sit in heathen darkness might have the gospel message in the same proportion that she had it.

### III. The Society of Heaven.

Should you contemplate on moving into a new community, it is only fair to inquire somewhat about the people where you are to locate. Except for religious purposes you would not intentionally locate among those whose aspirations are no higher than living from hand to mouth. Neither would you desire the new location wholly for earthly or financial gain. You would like to know the advantages such as churches and schools, etc.

If you take the way of holiness, here, there you will desire the fellowship of the redeemed, blood-bought and holy. A foretaste of heavenly felicity here, is but a foretaste of the society of heaven. If our present life is unpleasant and painful we at once seek the sympathy and consolation of an approved friend. If they cannot be found to console us then we desire to create a spiritual atmosphere and encourage ourselves as we commune with the Father of Lights.

Many express their desire for heaven and of going there and meeting friends and loved ones gone on before, yet by their daily lives many would be caused to think there was no such place. If we fail to get adjusted here we will not make it. Ordinary morality will keep people out of the penitentiary but it will take holiness of heart and life to keep them out of hell and get them safely into heaven.

This earth is wrapped in oxygen fifty miles deep and we have lungs to breathe it; we are adjusted to it and can't live without it. We can't live in the water neither can the fish live out of the water. We must get adjusted to the atmosphere of heaven, if we make it our future abode. The atmosphere of heaven is holiness and we can only get adjusted by living a holy life here.

My aim in giving the public this message is to strengthen the weak, console the sorrowing and encourage the despondent and increase your faith in a land that is fairer than day, which is the home of the Redeemer and the redeemed.

A friend is taken by death, the first thing that comes to us is, where have they gone? Will we meet again? If so, where and when? We turn to the Book of all books, it tells us where they have gone and that we may meet them again. Yes, we can meet again in the land of the unsetting sun and drink from the stream that flows by the throne of God.

This world is a stormy sea with waves dashing high. We will stay here but a little while. Our life is but a vapor, just a shadow and we are gone. But we want to know where we are going and where our friends are who have gone on before.

These are terrible times, yet darker days are ahead of us than we have seen yet. This is the land of the sword and the spear, but in heaven we can wear the victor's crown. A terrible battle is on now between light and darkness, but by and by when the war is over we shall get to go home. It is only a night, and the eternal day will dawn.

We are told of two men who early one morning got into a dispute about what part of the heavens the sun would first appear in. They got into a fight and beat each other up. When the sun came up they were in such a condition that neither of them could see it. So there are persons who

argue about heaven until they argue themselves out of it. And there are others who argue about hell until they argue themselves into it.

A number of persons got off a train in an eastern city and all rushed for a certain hotel. They were greatly surprised to find out that they had not had a vacant room for days. So they started for other hotels. One lady calmly sat down. Others leaving said, "Are you not going, too?" She replied, "No, I telephoned ahead and my room is ready." If some people expect a reservation in heaven, they had better wire ahead and make their plans.

Amos 4:12 is a preparation that everybody ought to make. The fact that there is a God is proven by nature, intuition, conscience, and the Bible. We are wrecked by sin and need preparation to set us right.

### I. Why Should We Prepare?

1. Because we are unprepared.
2. To get rid of sin. Sin causes discord and separation. When rid of sin we have harmony of mind and peace of soul.
3. Because of the fall all are sinners.
4. Because man is not fit to meet God.
5. Because man is to live forever somewhere.

### II. How Should We Prepare?

By regeneration, repentance, confession, forsaking and restitution. Man needs God, but God will not enter a rebellious heart. This world is time and place for probation and preparation. As death finds us, so we will be throughout eternity.

### III. When Should We Prepare?

1. While you have good health.
2. While the door of mercy is open.
3. While you have someone to help you.
4. Prepare now.
  - (1) This may be your last chance.
  - (2) Probation ends at death.
  - (3) As a tree falleth so shall it lie.
  - (4) Now is the accepted time.

#### IV. We Must Meet Him.

1. Everyone must meet Him.
2. Rich, poor, high, low, learned and unlearned.
3. If you live as you have today, will you be prepared?
4. Are you prepared now?
5. Prepare to meet the God you have rejected.

#### IV. The Joys of Heaven.

Oh, What joyous expectation!  
Oh, What happy anticipation!

1. The death of the righteous is the only death to be desired. "Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his." Numbers 23:10.

2. The death of the righteous is death in Jesus Christ. It takes preparation on our part to die the death of the righteous; definite and specific preparation. No righteous dying without righteous living.

3. Our security in death is found in Jesus Christ. He takes out the sting for the Christian.

4. This is the death to be desired because it ends all trouble. We are subject to trouble, temptation, disappointment, sorrow, suffering, poverty and bereavement. Death ends all trouble.

5. Death of the righteous is a death of victory and triumph.

6. Death of the righteous is but the gateway into a new and beautiful world; houses not made with hands; rivers clear as crystal; trees bear fruit every month and the leaves are for the healing of the Nations.

(1) Gateway into a new heaven. (2) Gateway into a larger service. (3) ,Gateway into a new revelation.

But we want to see Jesus, His hands, His brow, His sides, His feet, and look into His face and "tell the story saved by grace."

If you desire to know about the future life, you must lay aside all imaginations, take the Bible as your guide, and sit at the feet of Him who brought Immortality, and we can learn all necessary for us to know this side of the grave.

In this great world of change, in the midst of a life which will soon come to a close, we do not look forward to a compensation of reward as we think of the future life. This subject does occupy the minds of the deeply spiritual, in the twilight of life's loneliest hours. Heaven is the land of our



hopes and treasures. To it we are bound with the holiest and sweetest ties, and to this country, we are headed because of those who have outstripped us in the race and died in the faith.

The Psalmist said, "I shall be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness." That will be heaven. In this world want is written on almost every human heart. You seldom find a person with a satisfied satisfaction. But in heaven we will want for nothing. To be in His presence and to look upon His face will be a satisfying portion. One of the saddest facts of life is that multitudes will not make the landing. They, having neglected all their days the essential prerequisite -- preparation, will miss heaven. Reason, revelation, and experience tell us that preparation is necessary for admission. You can have a foretaste of heaven in your heart before you get there, as Columbus saw strange and beautiful birds hovering around the ship long before he caught sight of America.

Jasper walls and pearly gates will not make heaven attractive. It is the presence of our Redeemer and being forever with our Lord. That city will need no sun; it will need no moon but the Lamb is the Light thereof. A city not built with hands and the buildings do not grow old with time. A city whose inhabitants no census has ever numbered only the Book of Life which is the Heavenly Directory. It has foundations whose builder and maker is God.

Why the sorrows and bereavements of life? Many things in life we do not understand, but God's hand is behind the cloud. We will have to wait until the pearly gates unfold to get the answer to some questions. That Father and Mother may be removed from the family when seemingly needed most. That early home-going of a promising and talented person may not be understood here, but we will wait for the answer.

The Christian knows that a prepared home awaits him beyond the grave. The Father's house is no dream, fancy, or imagination, but a reality. Socrates and Plato speculated as to what comes after death but the Bible Christian knows.

1. To some the future home will be a place of rest. To those who have labored in the heat of the day it will be blessed rest.

2. It will be free from sorrow and death. We do not know the sorrow hidden under the surface. Sorrow and death are on every hand. You may have your parents with you for awhile but they will bid you a final adieu.

3. Heaven is a place of happy reunion. Some enjoy family reunions here but they must separate. There will be no good-byes in the family reunion beyond to meet God's family of all ages. Paul, that faithful, battle-scarred warrior of the cross, as he comes to the end of the way takes up his pen and writes, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also, that love His appearing." II Tim. 4:6-8.V.

Occupation of Heaven.

Heaven was made for man and man for heaven. When man passes into that glorious home, he will be surrounded by holy and heavenly beings. Peace, joy, and satisfaction will abound with its immeasurable blessedness and an eternal weight of glory.

The prominent characteristic of heaven will be that of praise. They rest not day or night but say holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty which was and is and is to come. They worship Him who sitteth upon the throne and cast their crowns at His feet saying, "Thou art worthy, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by His blood out of every kindred, tongue, and people and nation, and hast made us unto our God kings and priests." We shall be arrayed in white robes washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. We shall be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are passed away. We shall cast ourselves at His feet and worship Him forever.

Heaven is a Place and a State or a Condition.

1. We speak of the clouds as being up in the heavens. 2. The sun, moon, and stars are beyond the clouds. We refer to them as being up in the heavens. 3. Heaven is the place where God is. For when God dwells in the heart manifesting His love, revealing His glory, there is heaven. In this sense, the way to heaven is heaven all the way. In heaven, we will not be conscious of one thing to interrupt our happiness. Nothing unholy will ever enter to disturb the happiness of the saints.

In heaven, the sun will never set; death shall be swallowed up in life. The saints shall possess all that is essential to their happiness. They shall dwell amidst pleasures forevermore, free from sorrow and death and shall mingle with the saints around the throne. "There the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest."

Our enjoyment there will depend largely upon the development of our capacities here.

I like to think of heaven as a place where God's will is perfectly done. Then, I like to think of heaven as a four-square planet made by God and swung out into space. A city free from sin so different from our cities. No sin, no death, funeral processions are never seen and graveyards are unknown in heaven.

In every serious thinking person, there is a longing for a better country. This world is not our home. We are seeking a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. We are pilgrims and strangers here, but we are looking up for our redemption draweth nigh. The heavenly city is a prepared place for a prepared people. They all shout there, and not one holiness fighter in all that city.

1. Heaven is a great city none other like it. It is the Metropolis of the Universe.
2. It is a well built city. Builder and maker is God; foundations eternal. Its walls are of jasper, gates of pearls, streets of gold; it has twelve gates.

3. It is a well guarded city. At the twelve gates are twelve angels.
4. It is a well governed city; no disturbances; no lawlessness.
5. It is a well peopled city. Saints of all generations have gathered within its walls, population is as the number of stars. No man can number them.
6. It is a glorious city. The glory that fills it is the glory of God.
7. It is a holy city. Nothing that defileth can enter there.
8. It is a well-lighted city. The Lamb is the light thereof.
9. It is a well watered city. A pure river flows through' the streets and around the throne.
10. It is a well provisioned city. The tree of life with its twelve crops of fruit and leaves for the healing of the nations grows there. They will never be sick there or ever feel another pain.

II Cor. 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Heaven is a place we have thought about, read about, and talked about all of our lives. We may know but little about it, but what we do know makes us anxious to know what we don't know. How gladly and willingly children gather around their mother to hear her tell them about heaven. And brethren, if we ever get inside the gates of pearl, we must become as humble and as obedient as the little child.

Heaven should be preached on until people have a desire to get ready. In the early days of the country, it was said that the preacher preached on hell until you could smell the brimstone and then preached on heaven until you could smell the fruit. The preaching of the doctrine will stimulate and encourage those who are in the way.

The "Narrow Way" leads to the Christian's goal, that is the heavenly world. But to make it in, you may expect to wade through grief, slander, reproach, heartaches and misunderstanding. Some have been starved to death while others have gone to the chopping block, but they will be awaiting our arrival.

Heaven will be our eternal home where we'll not get any tax card, rent never comes due, never have to pay a grocery bill, gas bill, or water bill. What a privilege it will be to meet those you have promised to meet "over in the glory land." You no doubt held their hand as they crossed Jordan's chilly stream. You promised to meet them and they are still holding you to that promise. Whatever you do or may not do, do not disappoint them.

In this world, you may wear a badge of reproach and scorn and drink from the cup of bitter disappointment and misunderstanding, but there we will be understood and enjoy perfect health. We will not need physicians, hospitals, drug stores, but perfect health will bloom on every brow.

But Heaven: who can comprehend it? A place where no sickness, no pain, no sorrow, no cloud, no night, no bitterness, no weariness, no remorse, no anguish, no graves, no sighs, no tears, no sad laments, no dying, no broken hearts, no death-bed scenes, never a corpse, never a coffin, never a hearse, and never a grave in that beautiful land. There the sun will rise and go down no more. Heaven will be a gracious treasure, a profound joy and an eternal influence which can never come to mortal man. Oh, the blessed hope of a glad reunion, with the departed saints in the glory land. How they do attract us as we journey thus by the way.

Heaven is a permanent place. Our surroundings here are temporary, transitory, passing, decaying, and changing. Earth is a place, where we are to camp for a while. We desire a better country, one that is heavenly. Heaven is free from sin, sorrow, pain, disappointment, and imperfection of every kind. We have troubles and trials here but none in heaven. The best people who ever lived will be there. John saw multitudes that no man could number. They will be there of all nations, peoples, and tongues. Many shall come from the East and the West and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Heaven will be a place of happiness because Jesus will be there. He is the motive of our actions, and the inspiration of our hearts. We shall see Him, know Him, and serve Him. A place of happiness because of the absence of all sorrow, disappointments, and heartaches, no deaths, no suffering, no misunderstandings, in heaven, no night, no pain, no cemeteries, no funeral processions, no hunger, no thirst, no unemployment. All will be employed doing the will of God. Nothing there to mar the happiness of the redeemed. Every earthly pain will cease, every trial will be over and all tears dried up.

A city without pain and sorrow.  
A city without deaths and burials.  
A city without marriage and mourning.  
A city in which Jesus will be King.  
Angels will be guards.  
The saints will be citizens.  
The walls are salvation.  
The gates are pearls and the streets are paved with gold.  
No tongue can tell,  
No voice can sing,  
No pen can write,  
No brush can paint,

The joy and glory of being with Jesus, angels, and the blood-washed of all ages.

O my friend, if you did but know what awaits the Christian, you would not refrain from rejoicing and even leaping for joy. Labors, trials and troubles will be nothing. You will rejoice in affliction and glory in tribulation and like Paul and Silas sing God's praises in the darkest night and in the deepest dungeon.

People live in this world until they are captured by wealth and position and forget they are but visitors here and must soon leave for eternity Only a few short days, weeks, months, or years until we will all be leaving for the great beyond You see others leave, but some day, much sooner than we expect, we will be leaving never to return.

When Vanderbilt was leaving, he requested some one to sing:

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore.

Death calls from a life of ease and disappointment to the great beyond. Sorrow and disappointment is a universal malady; it is found in every home from the log cabin to the mansion. Sorrow passes her bitter cup to every son and daughter of Adam's race.

Death alone can set the Christian free from this painful decaying house of clay.

Death calls us to our eternal home where there will be no tempter to annoy. Let us claim our starry crown, our harp of gold, and a house of many mansions. I Samuel 20:3. "There is but a step between me and death."

A warning to every soul on his way to an open grave and the Judgment

I. Preparation needed. We're all creatures of two worlds. Live here and hereafter. God serves notice on us that a settling up time is coming.

II. Prepare because we're sinners. Heaven is a country where there is no sin.

III. Preparation includes conviction, forgiveness, confession, restitution, sanctification, and holy living.

IV. Preparation now. Tomorrow may be too late. 1. Death is certain by God's appointment. We do not know how, when, or where. 2. Death is separation -- From friends and earthly store. 3. Death is a change -- A doorway from time to eternity. 4. Death may be a very happy event -- If preparation has all been looked after. 5. Death may be unwelcome and terrible. (1). If it finds one unprepared. (2). If it finds one's work unfinished. (3) If it finds one without God. Job 14:10.

"But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?"

I. A Solemn Statement.

1. Death is the end of our earthly career. 2. Death removes from society, business and earthly pursuits. 3. Death is separation of soul and body. Body returns to the ground and soul returns to God.

II. The Origin of Death.

Originated in the Garden of Eden as the result of sin.

### III. The Nature of Death.

1. An event absolutely certain.
2. We cannot escape it.
3. The decree from God.
4. The time is fixed by God.
5. We do not know when.
6. Death will overtake you.
7. You may be doped and unconscious. (1) Past generations have died. (2) Life may be long but will end. (3) Methuselah lived to an old age but died. (4) Strength will not avail or Samson would not have died. (5) Wisdom will not avail or Solomon would not have died. (6) Piety will not avail or Abraham would not have died.

### IV. The Claim of Death.

1. He visits battlefields and hospitals. 2. He goes into mansions and claims millionaires. 3. He goes into shanties and claims the poor.

### V. Death Demands Our Consideration.

1. Its certainty. 2. Its nearness. 3. Its nature. 4. Its terrors. 5. Its warnings. 6. Its powers settle destinies. 7. Because of our nearness to the river's crossing. 8. Because of preparation we should make.

### VI. The Important Question:

1. Infidel dies -- Where is he? 2. Gambler dies -- Where is he? 3. Hypocrite dies -- Where is he? 4. Christian dies -- Where is he?

Ill. A sinner dying cried, "I am dying and going to I know not where !"

Ill. A Christian dying shouted, "I am dying and going to a place I have wanted to go all my life."

Alexander the Great, while dying, said, "I have given thought to everything but death and that is the most important subject I could have considered."

Spurgeon said, "Do not fail to warn men to prepare for death."

Death is a familiar subject, yet it is not a popular one. All know he is coming but so few are ready to welcome him.

I. Nothing more certain than death. 1. It is the nature of the human body to die. 2. The body is mortal and constantly wearing out. As the automobile has limited life, so the human body soon renders its limit of endurance.

II. Bible proves certainty of death. "As in Adam, all died, so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1. The educated, illiterate, the old, and the young all must die. 2. Death visits the king on the throne and the poor man in the slums. 3. Death comes down the road of the centuries. 4. The muffled tread of death is universal. Death looks in at every window and comes in at every door. It changes music into a funeral dirge. The funeral procession moves slowly through the streets. Listen to the sobs and sighs and see that vacant chair. You may escape contagious diseases, but you cannot escape death.

III. Death being certain, all should prepare. To neglect preparation, is the height of folly. If you knew a cyclone were coming, you would prepare. You are out of the road of death nowhere. There are thousands of gates leading to death and generations are passing through.

IV. Death ends forever our opportunities to do here what we should have done. Sermons you have heard may be remorse of conscience. You have flirted with opportunity and trifled with your destiny. Once grace flowed like a river, now its channels are dried up forever.

V. Death has been conquered. Death of Christ struck death with a mighty sledgehammer blow. It lifted the gates of death off their hinges. It made the tunnel of death to bloom like the valley.

VI. Resurrection of Christ assures victory over death. Men conquered armies and nations but Christ conquered death.

VII. Testimonies of dying saints are good evidences. Paul was hounded from port to port, shore to shore, imprisoned, and five times beaten with thirty-nine stripes save one. Hear Paul's valedictory address, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith." This testimony embraces: 1. A victorious past, 2. A peaceful present, 3. A blissful future. "We shall sleep, but not forever, There shall be a glorious dawn; We shall meet to part no, never, In the resurrection morn."

II Tim. 4:7, Paul refers to his Christian life under three aspects. 1. It is a warfare. 2. It is a race. 3. It is a trust. Paul lived such a devoted, consecrated and earnest life that in the end he had no regrets. He no doubt made mistakes but he had a heavenly pull and was constrained by holy motives and purposes. This life is a warfare and we must fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life. Also it is a race and to finish the course with success we must lay aside everything which would hinder or retard our progress and run with patience the race set before us. In this life, we are on trial and to be true to the trust we must keep the faith. We must not compromise for modern ideas and human philosophies. Paul was courageous and heroic in that he laid down his life for the faith. He looked forward to the time when he would receive a crown, crown of life, crown of righteousness, and at that time there would be no mistakes made and no favoritism shown; not for Paul alone but all that love the appearing of Jesus.

"O Death, where is thy sting?" You are at the crossing of the river. The icy hand of death is upon the brow. You are now sailing between two great shores. Conscience tells you the end is reached. The Almighty has the balances in His hands. Riches take wings and fly away. Your notions, ideas, and opinions are things of the past. Those the world call great are now turning pale. The vain pomp and show of the world is now worthless. No one now has an argument against holiness. Holiness is popular here. Christian character tells its full value at the station of death. We all arrive at this station on schedule time according to God's time table. And on the Highway of Holiness, we see heroes, seers, and saints. The angels of God are our closest friends. The smoke of the battle and the shout of new born souls have encouraged us many times along the way. We have heard the mighty thunderings of Jehovah in the mountains and on the plains but He has led us through green pastures, and beside the still waters. But the end is reached; we are here; the last enemy is conquered. The sting is gone, and we enter the door of the morning that knows no night.

That the saints pass immediately at death into heaven is taught by the most pious and learned denominations of all ages. We grant that this does not prove it absolutely true; but it does give much weight to the argument. Therefore, this is no new idea and it is not the faith of the few, but it is the testimony of the Church. The influence of such teaching has been very extensively respected and felt throughout the Church world. No doubt, the doctrine has been responded to with a joyful Amen by millions since the organization of the Christian church. People everywhere believe that the saints immediately after death are admitted into heaven.

Again, some tell us that the full effect and consequences of a person's actions are not fully worked out when one dies. (For our actions follow us and will continue their influence until the end of time comes). For instance, infidels, who have been dead for years, yet their labors and writings are still working for evil; while on the other hand, the labors and writings of many good men are still working for good. These must be brought into consideration when it comes to rewards and punishments. Hence, some claim that destiny cannot be immediately decided. But God knows all things, and He knows how these things will work out and is able to give a justice at the day of death the same as He will at the end of the world. Besides, there is nothing unreasonable or unscriptural in the belief that the happiness of the righteous in heaven or the misery of the lost in hell will increase in exact proportion as the consequences of their actions on earth are developing until the Judgment Day. Our enjoyment in heaven will be in exact proportion to our capacity; and as fast as our spirits are Unfolded will our joys increase.

In yonder quiet room shaded with the twilight of mourning and sorrow lies a dying saint. Weeping friends have gathered around waiting for the last breath; the last words have already been heard. Not a look of complaint, of agony, or even a frown is seen upon his face. No doubt, he hears exquisite music and sees heavenly sights never yet made known to mortal beings. The pulse ceases to beat, the last breath has been drawn, and the spirit takes its flight to the God who gave it. Will this redeemed soul, set free from earthly captivity, stop on its way before it reaches our Father's Throne? The last farewell is said, the body lies before us motionless, all is silent. Some may mourn his absence but I feel we will meet again. In the dreadful stillness of the twilight hour, we look heavenward and the honest heart inquires, "Where is the spirit now?" Who would forbid an answer? Who would refuse to give an answer if they could? What answer would Christianity allow you to give? If the Marys committed no sin in seeking the tomb of their Lord "very early when it was yet dark" that they might anoint His body with spices, they asked with tears where they



had laid Him, surely it would not be wrong for us to ask with tearful anxiety, "Where are the spirits of our departed dead?" At once, we find ourselves facing the question of all ages. And the only answer the writer has to give is, "As to where they are, depends exclusively on how they lived while among us."

Many are asking the questions, "Will death shut from our view this present world? Do the saints of heaven know of our joys and sorrows? Do they know of our fortunes and misfortunes? Do they know of our triumphs and temptations? Are they as much interested in us now as when they were on earth?" How glad we would be to have these questions rightly answered. But to be sure, we had better wait until we get there and then we can be absolutely sure. The saints of heaven may know more of our actions and conduct than we think. When we read of the interest the rich man in hell had in his five brethren on earth, we would not want to think of Christians in heaven having less interest or less concern for us who are still entangled with the temptations and dangers of a probationary life. Surely in heaven, we will remember the world and the scenes of His sufferings and of His marvelous triumph and will remember this world as the battleground of the ages. We live in the past by recollections; in the present by consciousness, and in the future by hope. No doubt, memory in the future world will be keener, and more faithful than it was here. This life and the future life stand evidently in close relationship to each other. The future life is a continuation of this life. What we sow here we will reap yonder providing we do not reap it before we get there.

If this world is for probation and the future world for rewards, then we should know why we are rewarded; and we can only remember why we are rewarded by the recollection of a probationary state. A crown would mean nothing unless we could remember some victory we had won. What would a recompense of a reward amount to unless we could remember some service rendered to God and to humanity?

We shall have the society of the pious of all ages. "They shall come from the East and the West and the North and the South and shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven." We will have the privilege of conversing with prophets and righteous men of olden times. We will hear the orations of Enoch and Elijah, of Abraham and Job, of Moses and Samuel, of David and Isaiah, of Daniel, Peter, James, Paul and John. O what inspiration as we listen to the eloquent and immortal tongues as they discuss the wonders of redemption!

It is believed that we will recognize each other in heaven. "Then shall I know even as I am known." To think we will know less in heaven than on earth is contrary to the tenor of Scriptures. The inference from the Bible is that in the heavenly state by an intuitive perception of which we can here form no idea, we shall even recognize those whom we have never seen in this life. Then our knowledge will be wonderfully increased. How it rejoices our hearts now to think we shall be able to greet each other in that bright world of bliss and glory.

O what ineffable joy for a father or mother to meet those who were once prodigal sons and daughters. It would be hard for us to imagine here in this life the intensity of emotion of those who unite with friends and loved ones around the throne. There we shall see the King in all His beauty and He will be known to every saint.

Our employment will be pleasing and no doubt of many varieties. We shall all behold and admire the glories of heaven. He will lead the ransomed millions over all the celestial fields of Immortality and unfold to us the riches and glory of His Eternal Kingdom. The glory of the future life is as real as though we had been wandering over the golden hills of eternal bliss for ten thousand years.

The most exalted conception of the heavenly felicity which awaits the people of God beyond the boundaries of time must be faint and inadequate as Paul asserts, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." I Cor. 2:9. The most vivid description of revelation, and the most sublime metaphors of Holy Writ are feeble vehicles in describing the ecstatic glories of the heavenly world.

In heaven we will have been saved from all evil. We will not be conscious of any defect to interrupt our happiness. It has been said that the pursuit of knowledge there will constitute a part of our employment and will greatly contribute to our happiness. We shall not die and leave truth behind but it will accompany us to the future world; and where we leave off here, we will take up there with renewed and immortalized powers. There we will not get tired any more but there our faculties will flourish in the freshness of youth.

Evil and sin will not be allowed to enter that holy city. All trouble here has been caused by sin. But there "the wicked cease from troubling." The faithful saint of God has had a hard time here but he will get recognition by and by.

Jesus did not want His followers to have a vain hope concerning future blessedness. He said I am going to that state in glory where there is not only a place of supreme importance for myself but there I will have a prepared place for all my followers.

Every negative has its opposite in the material and scientific world; hence this rule obtains in the spiritual world. Hell is exactly opposite of heaven and what one is, the other is not.

In heaven there will be law.  
In hell there will be anarchy.

In heaven there will be love.  
In hell there will be hate.

In heaven there will be joy.  
In hell there will be sorrow.

In heaven there will be rest.  
In hell there will be no rest day or night forever.

In heaven there will be light.  
In hell there will be the blackness of darkness  
forever.

For the saint, home at last. the voyage is over; the tempest is hushed. No more heart-aches, no more tired and wearied bodies, no more disappointments, no more thorns to be extracted, but blessed rest from the toilsome journey of life.

At home with the Savior at last. His arms enclose us, His grace comforts us; His light cheers us; and His presence satisfies us. We are now in the morning of the day that knows no night. He will lead us on, up, in and through and be our guide and light as eternal ages roll by.

The home of the soul will be the final abode of the saints. What permanence and satisfaction await us in that day and not us only but unto all them also that love His appearing. Families broken up for centuries will be reunited in that day never to part again. The martyrs and prophets will be there. The apostles and preachers who have been true to the blood and never betrayed their trust will be there.

Our weary bodies will not get tired any more; no more tears, for God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. We shall eat fruit of the tree of life and behold the sea of glass and drink from the river and fountain of life that flows by the throne of God. We will cast our crown at His feet and crown Him Lord of All and will still be loving Him because He first loved us. We shall see His face and His name shall be on our foreheads. "And there shall be no night there: and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign with Him forever."

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#### A SERMON

#### "The Home of the Soul"

Lift up your heads, ye weary Pilgrims of earth, and behold the homeland of the soul which is almost in sight. The upturned eye, the expression of the face, the rapidity of your pace proves logically that you are seeking a country. Then forward, Brother Pilgrim, till we commune together in that happy home, and refresh ourselves with realities in a home not made with hands, yes, that heavenly land toward which our yearning hearts are aspiring.

To my mind there is no subject upon which the mind should dwell more frequently, more joyfully and more deeply than that state of existence which lies beyond the grave. Whether acknowledged or not this subject does occupy the thoughts of men. Hope of something better, dread of something worse, is constantly before men. In the busiest hours, in the gayest circles, the fact of our future existence bears heavily upon the spirit. In the midst of the turmoil of life, surrounded by infallible evidences of immortality and going fast and consciously toward an eternal state, man often looks with trembling anxiety beyond this life. The man is in exile on a foreign shore, but when he leaves the shore of captivity and sails towards home, it becomes more real and he has a greater longing to get there and see for himself, and enjoy the blessings and hospitality of a home life. We are exiles on our way home. Already we are being driven far and fast upon the sea of life. Would it not be wise for us to look anxiously towards a landing place on the eternal shore?

With the Bible to direct our thoughts, and the Christian hope to inspire our hearts, and with this hope in us we can live in this world and keep in constant view the home of the soul.

This subject does occupy the attention of men. They may not bend over and look into the mysteries of salvation. But they are not satisfied with vague knowledge, they desire to look into it. We should not satisfy ourselves with general knowledge that there is a heaven, but we should make ample preparation to go there ourselves. When we desire to go to a new country to some unknown land, various questions concerning it will come into mind during time of preparation. Yet it is remarkable how much we know about heaven, even though our sources of information seem at first exceedingly scarce. Let us catch every ray of light concerning the future world, in order for us to be intelligent and as comfortable as possible as we journey towards it. Doubtless some friend of earth to whom you were united by the ties of nature has gone on before. Perhaps you visit that sacred spot where their bodies sleep, but you do not attempt to call them back, because they are better off than we. While tears may flow like rain, but with the poet we say--

"Yet again we hope to meet them,  
When the day of life is passed,  
Then in heaven with joy to greet them,  
Where no farewell tears are shed."

Come, thou consistent child of hope, and wipe your tears, and we will read about heaven. "He is not here." "Let the dead bury their dead." Why linger ye about the grave of buried hope? Yonder just ahead is a land where hopes never die. Look up, your reward is before you; the blessed thought of the eternal home will heal all wounds received by the way. Arise and depart in the strength of the Lord, for this is not your rest.

The young may depart, but the old must. Aged Pilgrim, you may expect to soon be there. You have already gone down the hillside of life toward the valley of the Shadow of death. Beloved, lift up your eyes and look! Before you is a land fairer than day. Your eyes are dim to the beauties of earth, your ears are deaf to its exquisite music. Your feet have become weary and tired because of the thorny and rugged way. But behold a better land lies just before you. To read of it is better than pastime while the chariots of Israel tarry. It inspires and comforts as we journey thus by the way. Heaven, Oh! heaven, beautiful heaven. Our Father's house, the home of angels and of all the departed saints who have fallen asleep in Jesus! We shall see apostles, prophets and martyrs and best of all our Savior. There the redeemed will be crowned with starry crowns, eat fruit from the tree of life and drink from the crystal fountain around the throne of God. It will be heaven. The home of all hope, the end of life's weary pilgrimage. Here we dismiss our burdens and forget our sorrows. It is here the wicked cease from troubling and the weary be at rest. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

All Bible readers have born in them intuitively that heaven is somewhere in God's universe. This impression is piously and pleasantly cherished by the learned men of all ages. Neither does the Bible leave us in the dark as to heaven being a locality. "I go to prepare a place for you." Where He is, there we shall be also. We shall be together in the same locality and behold His glory and see Him face to face. Surely we can't but think about a home beyond this life. It is a

land of hopes, it is where our treasures are, and to that land we are bound, not only by the powers of faith; but by human ties, yes, because of the dead who died in the Lord. We look that way to a home, a heavenly home, an eternal home, a real habitation, where we shall know one another and be with one another upon terms of intimate friendship. Here upon earth we have a foretaste of celestial joy. We see through the eye of faith the bright landscape of immortal realms. We are cheered in the midst of these low grounds of sin and sorrow, by the dawn of an eternal morning and we have a desire to depart which is far better. Yet all the days of our appointed time will we wait until our time comes. But we look forward to our home beyond the misty sea, a place unvisited by mortals. Our fancy sees quiet valleys, crystal streams, sparkling fountains and unclouded skies, where the air is filled with odor of unearthly sweetness. It is the home of the weary; it makes life more easy and death more comfortable. The homeland of the soul. Surely this is like heaven to me.

Modern discoveries show that various ideas as to the location of the soul prevails among the inhabitants of earth. Indians have believed that beyond the most distant mountain is a wide river, beyond the river a great country, on the other side of that country a world of water, in those waters are thousands of islands, containing trees and streams of water, and thousands of buffaloes and ten thousands of deer gaze on those hills and in those valleys, and when they die they are persuaded that some great spirit will conduct them to those islands of worlds, the happy hunting ground. Their knowledge being limited of the world in which they live would very naturally suffer their speculation to give them a wrong interpretation of the unknown regions. Being somewhat acquainted with tradition, their attention is immediately directed to heavenly worlds which are still floating like islands in the blue sea of space. It is there they erect their castles of hope, where we question the reality of their existence; and if you follow the Indian on you will doubtless return with new experiences and better contented to remain at home than before. You may for a while walk the difficult paths of speculation but afterward you will be more contented in the divinely illuminated path of revelation.

Who can paint the glorious realities of the world beyond the confines of time? Yet you may be absolutely sure that it will far exceed anything which the human mind has ever conceived. With love made perfect it is marvelous to live with that experience in view. A little child can love God with all the powers of its limited mind, might and strength; so can the aged with many years of experience and of intelligence and spiritual development. They can perfectly love God and Scriptural holiness in proportion to their capacity. But no doubt the most advanced of all saints that ever walked the earth have at the close of life merely entered upon their eternal career. Always advancing, always growing, always climbing new mountain peaks of new vision, they will be going from strength to strength and from glory to glory while the eternal ages of eternity shall roll. Blessed are the souls that shall overcome in all the conflicts of life by the blood of the Lamb and by the words of their testimony, for their inheritance is in the city of our God. The possibilities of the great hereafter, the blissful existence in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the fellowship of the dead who died in the Lord, the companionship of angels, and the expectation of seeing Jesus face to face, ought to inspire every honest soul to seek the experience of entire sanctification, which alone fits us for heaven, that we may make sure of all that is offered us in time and eternity through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Heaven is a place, a real place, a place occupied by God's holy intelligencies, whether principalities or powers, angels or men. The Jews had three heavens. First the region of the air where the birds fly and the clouds move. Second the region of the star spangled concave above us. Third the realms invisible beyond first and second where the Savior dwells. "For where Jesus is 'tis heaven there." It is the abode of the Shekinah of God's presence. Yet it is to be our abode. A place already prepared. "We know if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Though the earth may burn beneath our feet, yet we will not sink into perdition, because we have a foundation upon which to stand, and we will not be left without a home in which to live, for He hath prepared for us a habitation, far superior to these frail dwellings of earth; free from the defilements of sin, decorated with the beauty of holiness, wherein dwelleth righteousness. You ask the question, "Where are the dead?" The poet answers,

"Far from the world of toil and strife,  
They are present with the Lord."

Some of the most pious and leading denominations teach that the saints pass immediately at death into heaven. We consider it true as taught by the Word of God. And it seems the weight of argument is on this side. It is not the faith of a few but the testimony of the church, that the righteous at death enter that place which is called heaven, where the glorified saints are, the home of angels, to behold the Savior and be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is and shall forever be with the Lord.

We are inclined to look at heaven as a stereotyped condition without attaching to it the idea of degrees and progression. When we maintain that the saint passes immediately at death into heaven, we do not mean that they enter there upon their final condition, in the highest state of perfection, because their actions follow them and will continue their influence until the end comes. But they have entered the place of their final abode. Say, for instance, a child is born into the world; it is in the world, but it is limited in its observation, actions, ideas, capacities and enjoyment, and no doubt each faculty occupies its place symmetrically and in a uniform condition. Analogous to this may be our primary stage of our future celestial history. The child is in the world during its infantile years. But how different is it and how different is the world to it when its faculties are properly developed. So in heaven. The child before self-consciousness appeared, enjoyed an indistinct and floating life, yet very happy, so may it be with our future experience before the resurrection of the body. Wherever we are it will be a preparatory state to prepare us to enjoy heaven itself or more of it as long as the ages of eternity shall roll.

When we pass through dangers both seen and unseen we seldom realize how we are protected by the angels of God. Yet it has been said that when the Jewish economy passed, the ministry of angels came to a close. And that we have a better ministry which is the leading and comforting influence of the Holy Spirit, and that consequently we have no need of angelic service. Another says, "Angels are always abroad in the earth, binding the tares in bundles to burn, and gathering home into eternal barns God's faithful sheaves." The Bible says, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him and delivereth them." What a blessed truth is this! I would to God that we could realize by faith as we pass through this wilderness below that the angel of the Lord will throw His encampment around us. Again, "He shall give his angels charge

over us to keep us in all our ways." You may be led in many ways but angels which excel in strength will have charge over you. There is a way of temptation, there is a way of affliction, there is a way of duty and toil, and many ways to make up the Christian's pathway of life. For God leads him as He did saints of old through howling wilderness and sandy deserts, but all the way we are kept by the angel who has charge over us. Josephus says that angels conduct the souls of the dying from the gates of death on to their final abode. When they pass the gates of death there are two ways: one to the right and the other to the left. The unjust are dragged by force to the left for their just punishment. The just are guided to the right and led with hymns sung by angels into the region of light, to the place where the just have dwelt from the foundation of the world.

If heaven is a place distinct from earth as we think it is, then departed spirits will need a guide to conduct them thither. Do we not have angels with us in this untiring way? If so, why should they not go with us all the way? No wonder saints in the dying hour see angels hovering around. Many a saint greets this hour with smiles and an eternal welcome. These spirits are unseen by those who stand around and weep, but seen by those whose spiritual vision becomes bright in proportion as it becomes dim to earth. Christians in the dying hour have raised their hands with unearthly energy saying with joyful triumph, "They have come." Yes, "They have come." It is the "chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof." They are here to convey the spirit to the God who gave it. Farewell, earth, earthly things and earthly friends! "We are bound for the promised land." Yes, we are seeking a city which hath foundations, whose builder and ruler is God.

This has been the voice of the church for past centuries. It comes to us through the quiet medium of by gone ages, not the impulse of hurry, but in quietness and calmness. It is the testimony of the church and the testimony of Christian consciousness. This has been her experience through the deep floods and fierce flames of her trials and triumphs. The martyr at the stake, the missionary in exile for Christ's sake, the persecuted, the banished, yes, they all have died in the faith once delivered to the saints, with complete victory and implicit faith in a blissful immortality.

And in that glorious land we shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun shine on us any more, for the Lord God is in our midst, He shall feed us and lead us into fountains of living waters and God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. "In His presence is fullness of joy, at His right hand are pleasures forever more." There we will continue in perfect purity and unending bliss throughout an endless eternity. In that bright city the streets are gold, the gates are pearl, the walls are jasper. Heaven, our eternal home! No night, no pain, no sorrow, nor crying and the inhabitants shall die no more. The Lord will dwell with us, we will be his people and He will be our God. We shall dwell in this eternal home, share His inheritance, behold His glory and be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is, and shall be satisfied when we awake in His likeness. We shall receive a crown of righteousness, a crown of life, yes, a crown of glory which fadeth not away. It will be grand and glorious, when the redeemed of every kindred, tongue, people and nation shall join in the song of praise to Christ, because He was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood. We, with the thousands, yes, ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands, shall sing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing." Their voices of praises to God will be like the voice of many waters and mighty thundering saying, "Hallelujah, our God be praised! .... Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

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THE END