

Eisenhower Church of Christ

How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

The word “Heaven” can bring happiness to your heart, warmth to your soul, joy to your spirit, and anticipation to your mind. Thinking of Heaven brings emotions that no other word can. To Christians Heaven is what it is all about.

Paul helped establish the church in Corinth, an evil city. In 2 Corinthians 12:2, he introduces a man who he later identified as himself. He says that he was “caught up to the third heaven.” Two verses later he calls this third heaven “Paradise.”

Consider the word “paradise.” Paradise derives its origin from a Greek word of Persian extraction and it refers to a “dwelling place.” Logic indicates that if there is a third heaven there also must be a first and second heaven. The first is the realm of the birds. Jesus said, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the heaven have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20). The second is the realm of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon, and stars. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork” (Ps. 19:1). However, the third Heaven of which Paul speaks is always reserved for God. “The Lord is in His Holy Temple; the Lord’s throne is in Heaven (Psalms 11:4).

So we see the word heaven can represent any of three distinct places; the realm of the birds, the dwelling place of the stars, and the habitat of the Almighty. However, let us remember that this was not the first time Paul had gazed into Heaven (Acts 9). We also know Stephen was given this privilege as well (Acts 7). In fact, throughout the Bible God has often given us glimpses of Heaven. But though He has told us a lot, He has not told us all. And though we know a degree of its beauty, scope, and detail, we do not know it all. In fact, all that we know, though we know a lot, barely scratches the surface of this home of God called Heaven. The Psalmist said, “The Lord looked down from Heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God” (Psalm 14:2).

There is another word that, in many cases, is synonymous with heaven. It is the word “kingdom.” Jesus said, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34).

Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but the Kingdom of which Christ speaks is eternal. Unlike the kingdoms of men, the Kingdom, which is the church, is forever. And, as an eternal Kingdom it is greater than man’s hopes, dreams, or anything else man’s mind can fathom. However, there is yet another concept contained in the word “kingdom”. When John the Baptist began to prepare the way for the Lord he spoke often of a kingdom. It appears his constant cry was “the Kingdom is at hand.” When Jesus began to preach and teach He also taught “the kingdom is at hand.” However, the kingdom He and John were alluding to, and the kingdom Jesus mentions in Matthew 25 are different. The kingdom He first mentioned was the church (Matthew 16:18) and the kingdom He later mentions is the church glorified. (If this gives us a bit of difficulty in understanding do not be alarmed. It gave His disciples difficulty as well.) Physical people have difficulty disassociating themselves from thinking physical thoughts. However, His kingdom, whether we are talking about His Kingdom the church, or His Kingdom the church glorified, neither was a physical kingdom (John 18:36). Just as the victory Jesus promises is not a physical victory neither is His Kingdom. Kingdoms come and kingdoms go, but His Kingdom, because it is not physical, is eternal.

When Paul was facing death he penned, “...the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His Heavenly Kingdom” (2 Timothy 4:18). When Peter wanted to encourage the early church he penned, “give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11).

In John 13, Jesus is comforting His disciples for His soon departure. It seems Peter is especially discouraged. To comfort him and to comfort us Jesus says, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have

told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:1-2). I suppose of all the things Jesus said about Heaven this passage lays the best foundation. Because of His teaching here, Christians of all generations have echoed and re-echoed their desire to go. Brethren, as Peter said, let us make our “calling and election sure” (2 Peter 1:10) because to miss Heaven is to miss it all.

“We read of a place that called Heaven. It’s made for the pure and the free. These truths in God’s word He has given. How beautiful Heaven must be.”

—Shan Jackson

Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of **Loy Mitchell**. Loy entered into eternal rest Tuesday, June 9th at 9:00 a.m. Loy’s viewing was at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring Thursday, June 11th between 6:00-8:00 pm. His funeral services were held at the 14th & Main Church of Christ in Big Spring Friday, June 12th at 11:00 a.m. Loy preached his last sermon Sunday, June 7th at the Knott Church of Christ and left this world on the 9th. He will be missed.

Prayer Requests

Caleista Millican was taken to the Medical Center Hospital for pneumonia. She is in room #453.

Hazel Cavanaugh has an appointment with her doctor in Lubbock Monday, June 15th. This is a routine six months checkup. Please keep Hazel in your prayers and that she will continue to have good reports concerning her cancer.

Blair Sandana, Connie Lowe’s son-in-law, has been diagnosed with a malignant tumor on one of his kidneys. His family is requesting prayers for him.

Tracy Leeth is in line to be put on the liver transplant list. He is the son of one of Devida’s cousins in Piketon, OH. Please pray that all will go well and that he can receive a liver very soon as each passing day is crucial.

Concerns Update

Lee Roy Bell was transferred to the 4th floor at MCH, which is the cardiac floor. His heart is out of rhythm and they are working to get it back to where it should be to avoid the possibility of blood clots. Lee Roy is also being treated for his diabetes. His neck surgery may have to be postponed. He is in room #431.

Connie Lowe went to see her doctors at MD Anderson in Houston Wednesday, June 10th for a checkup and to undergo more tests to see if the injections are having an effect on her cancer. Please keep Connie in your daily prayers.

Raul Armendarez had an angiogram done at ORMC Monday, June 1st for a possible heart attack. All his tests turned out great. Raul had no blockage at all in his arteries.

Lana Howard is having a rough time with her physical therapy after knee replacement surgery because she is unable to take pain medication.

Prayer List

Cody & Kala Ausbrook; Lee Roy Bell; Susan Bosse; Mack Bradford; Charles Browning; Jane Burroughs; Neva Carrigan; Diane Carver; Steve Chavez; LaDonna Chism; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; Jewell Bettles-Dennard; Brian Drake; James Drake; Nancy Fisher; John Ford; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Linda Horton; Lon & Lana Howard; Bobby Hunt; Susan Lee; Katie Limer; Connie Lowe; Juli Marshall; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Loy Mitchell; Flossie Montgomery; Patsy Montgomery; Juan & Estella Morolez; Avery Ojado; Judy Phillips; Evan Rector; Elvia Ruckman; Carmen Settle; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; Nancy Slife; Marilyn Upshaw; Bré elle Watts; Lisa Wells; T.J. Wright; Toya Zambelli

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Mildred Bell; Neva Carrigan; Roberta Hamil; Winford; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall, Elder and Glenna McCarty; Caleista Millican; Janelle Shirley, Wilma Squire and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Simon Peter was rebuked of the Lord for his act and Jesus instructed him saying, "Put up they sword into the sheath; the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" What was the occasion?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

After the Sermon on the Mount, the Centurion met Jesus and said, "Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented." (Matthew 8:6)

FYI

Denny Wilson is hosting a weekly radio program called "**Christian Take Aim**" at 6:30 pm Tuesdays; www.thegospelradionetwork.org. Feel free to please pick up a business card on the youth table in the foyer.

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on CBS, channel 7.

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Office News

We need to replenish our meat fund. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the church and specify "**Meat Fund**". This fund is to help purchase the meat for special occasions such as funerals, etc. Any amount will be greatly appreciated as always.

Ora McAfee collected \$125.00 Wednesday, June 3rd for the "**Meals on Wheels**" program. These funds are used to help feed the elderly in our community which is a good work. We appreciate your generosity.

Food for Thought

The highest education is to learn to do God's Will.

There is only one thing more expensive than education – ignorance.

June 14th, 2015

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer
Lord's Supper

A.M.

Jeff Wesson
Rudy Ochoa
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
George Warren
Charles Wood
Denny Wilson

P.M.

Jeff Wesson
Doug Guynn
Allen Weakland
Jeff Wesson
Isaiah Armendarez
John Wood
Scot Straw

West...

Jr. Munoz
Trinidad Wood
Don Easlon

Tom Sorenson
Communion
(In Library)

East...

Cody Wesson

Bill Ryan

Dylan Straw

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* Jeff Wesson 561-5302 *Deacon:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Pulpit:* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Table:* Tom Sorenson 631-2518 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Cody Wesson 561-5302 *Contributions:* Cody Wesson 561-5302

Sunday AM”

“*Reconciliation*”
(*II Corinthians 5:18-21*)

Sunday PM

“*Cost of Discipleship*”
(*Mark 8:34-35*)

Our Records

*Bible Class...*81
*Morning Worship...*138
*Evening Worship...*74
*Wednesday...*101
Contribution...\$4,533.00

