

Longing for Heaven

Those who long for Heaven are faithful to desire a prepared place (Hebrews 11:16). When we yearn for something, that is our heart's desire. Our greatest desire ought to be for Heaven. It is a better country. There is no comparison to this present world. In that place, gold serves as paving bricks for the streets!

Now--in this present world--we have problems. There--in Heaven--we will know perfection. Now we have pain. There, we will know rest. Now we are acquainted with evil. There, we will know only good.

The pilgrim's way of life is one of desiring Heaven, and preparing as much as possible for Heaven. "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from Heaven," (2 Corinthians 5:2), and "For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord," (2 Corinthians 5:7-8).

David expressed his ardent wish in Psalm 27:4, "One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple." He spoke of yearning for Heaven.

In 1910, Henry Morrison was a missionary returning home to New York after forty years in Africa. On the same ship coming to America was Theodore Roosevelt, triumphantly returning after a long safari. Morrison saw the crowds and the enthusiasm for Roosevelt, then sadly reflected that no one was at the pier to greet and welcome him home. He grew somewhat despairing, and told the Lord so. Then the Lord gently reminded him, "But, Henry, you're not home yet!"

The Bible says, "For the grace of God ... is training us ... to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works," (Titus 2:11-14, ESV). We are looking for something that is better, more exciting, more glorious than anything this present world can offer.

We must not become comfortable with this old world. To do so is to forget what the glories of Heaven really are. We get excited to see a Fourth of July fireworks display. But it really does not compare with the glories of Christ.

Yes, the Christian is one who keeps on waiting, working, and watching, "for our redemption draws nigh."

Those who long for Heaven are faithful to persevere in trusting the promises God has made (Hebrew 11: 16). Our desire for the better country tells us that God is not ashamed of us, as He says, "Those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed" (1 Samuel 2:30). We honor Him by a life of faith in His promises. We honor Him by believing His Word and acting on it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

He has prepared a place for us (John 14:1-3). We often say, "Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people." God is at work preparing each believer for his place in Heaven. This life is but the training ground for Heaven. We keep on keeping on because we long for Heaven.

Those who become citizens of any given country must declare allegiance to that country and promise to uphold its laws and ideals. One must also renounce his citizenship in his former country in most situations. Becoming a citizen of Heaven means that the citizen of this world must renounce that world, and declare his allegiance to the King of Heaven. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

The old Gospel song says,

This world is not my home,
I'm just passing through.
My treasures are laid up,
somewhere beyond the blue.
The angels beckon me
from Heaven's open door;
And I can't feel at home
in this world anymore.

Longing for Heaven brings faithfulness on earth.