



## Too heavenly minded?

### Part 38

## What makes heaven heavenly

### 1. Things *not* there

Rev 21:4a And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

- No tears:

Rev 7:17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Is 25:8 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.

- No death:

1 Cor 15:54-57 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup>“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

- No sorrow or crying:

Is 53:3-4 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.<sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

- No pain:

Is 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

## 2. Things *new* there

Rev 21:4b-5a for the former things have passed away.”<sup>5</sup> Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

### 3. Those *not* there

Rev 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

21:27a But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie,

22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

### 4. Those *now* there

Rev 21:7,27b He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ... <sup>27</sup>but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

2 Cor 5:6,8 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ... <sup>8</sup>We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

14:13 ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”  
“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

## 5. These things are true

Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

John, like all Bible authors, simply writes what he sees & hears.

Rev 3:14 And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:"

Lk 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

## 6. It is done

Rev 21:6a And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Jn 19:30 It is finished

1 Cor 15:24-28 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. <sup>28</sup>Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Rev 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Is 44:6 I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.

48:12 I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.

## 7. The thirsty

Rev 21:6b I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

Ps 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Is 55:1 Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Mt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Jn 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.

7:37-38 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup>He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

7:17 or the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

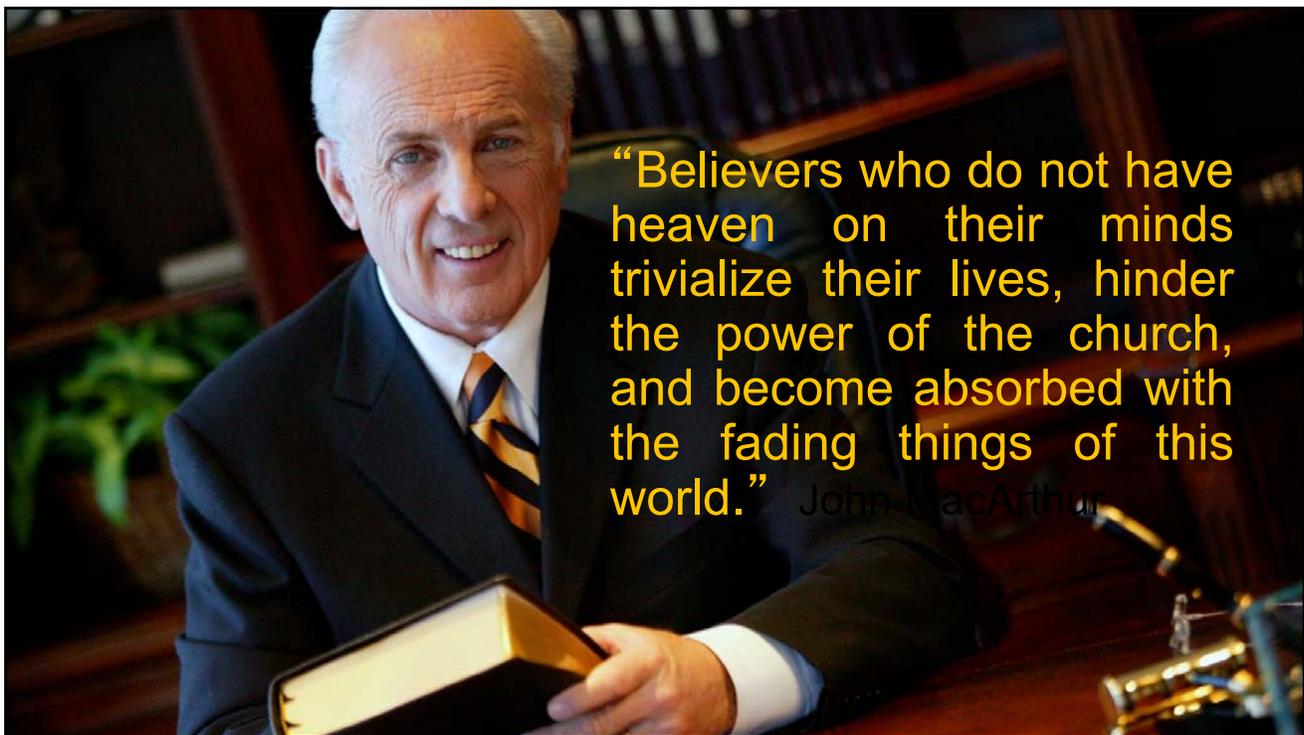
## Too heavenly minded?

1. Scripture refers to heaven approximately 500 times.
2. The book of Revelation refers to heaven approximately 50 times.

### 3. Believers have always been preoccupied with heaven:

Heb 11:13,16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ... But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Ps 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.



“Believers who do not have heaven on their minds trivialize their lives, hinder the power of the church, and become absorbed with the fading things of this world.” John MacArthur

## 4. Believers cannot allow themselves to focus on the earth:

Js 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

## 5. Reasons why believers should focus on heaven:

Col 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Phil 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

- This world is not our home:

1 Chron 29:15 For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope.

Ps 119:19 I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me.

1 Pet 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

- Heaven is better:

Phil 1:21,23 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

- Believers' names are written in heaven:

Lk 10:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Heb 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

- Believers who have finished their earthly races are there: Heb 12:23

- Believers' inheritances are in heaven:

1 Pet 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you

- Believers' rewards are there:

Mt 5:12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Believers' treasures are there:

Mt 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

- Believers will have their glorified bodies there:

1 Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Phil 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1 Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Pet 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

## 6. Longing for heaven will greatly affect the believer's spiritual growth:

Lk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## 7. Our view of heaven puts life's trials in proper perspective:

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

## 8. Those who set their minds on heaven are less likely to be ensnared by temptations:

Rom 8:5-6 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

## 9. The Bible mentions 3 heavens:

2 Cor 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

- The atmosphere: Gen 1:20, Ezek 38:20
- Outer space: Gen 15:5, 22:17, Ps 8:3, Is 13:10
- The dwelling place of God: Job 22:12, Ps 14:2, Mt 5:34, Acts 7:55, Heb 9:24, 1 Pet 3:22

## 10. Heaven is a real place, not a state of spiritual consciousness:

- People have gone there in bodies – Enoch (Gen 5:24), Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), Jesus (Acts 1:9)
- Jesus said He would prepare a place for believers –

Jn 14:2-3 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. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

## 11. Heaven is always up in relation to the earth:

Rev 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

2 Cor 12:2 such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

## 12. Believers go to heaven immediately upon death:

Lk 23:43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

2 Cor 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

## 13. Believers at the rapture will also go immediately to heaven:

1 Thess 4:13-18

1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.