

THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

INTRODUCTION:

A. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS BASED UPON TEN IMMUTABLE PRINCIPLES.

1. That God exists.
2. That man becomes a sinner when he disobeys God's will. He is thus Lost.
3. That God desires for man to be saved.
4. That The Godhead devised a plan for saving man through which God The Son (Christ) gave His life - a vicarious sacrifice - In order that all mankind might live eternally.
5. That the Holy Spirit inspired men of old to write this plan down in the book we call the Bible, and through it, He convicts the world of sin.
6. That man must appropriate this salvation (grace) to himself, as an act of free will, by obedience to the commands of the Gospel message, which are:

Hearing - Gaining a knowledge of these requirements.

Faith - In God, Christ, Bible.

Repentance - Which results in confession and baptism.
7. That the church is God's saved - Redeemed among mankind. Sometimes called God's Family, God's Church, or God's Kingdom.
8. That every Christian has the obligation to observe the rules of the Christian life and that his primary task is to share this "Good News."
9. That Hell is prepared for all mankind which lives in open rebellion against God's will.

10. That Heaven is prepared as the Eternal Abode of the faithful.
 - a. Heaven is described in Rev. 21 and 22.

I. HEAVEN, AS THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE, BECOMES THE MAIN OVERRIDING MOTIVE IN ALL OUR LIVES.

- A. In the first place, we are urged to desire to go there.
1. John 14:1-6: “.... 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. 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.”
 2. Hebrews 11:8-10: “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”
 3. Matthew 6:19-21: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
 4. Col. 3:2-4: “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”
 - a. All these scriptures teach:
 - (i) That Christ wants us to set our affections upon Heaven.
 - (ii) And that, if our heart’s desire is really set on going there, we will not get side-tracked with worldly things.

B. Secondly, We have a guaranteed title to a home eternal in that City Foursquare.

1. Eph. 1:13-14: “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.” (KJV)

“And after you gave your confidence to Him you were, so to speak, stamped with the promised Holy Spirit as a guarantee of purchase” (Phillips Translation)

“And that Spirit is the pledge that we shall enter upon our heritage, when God has redeemed what is His own, to His praise and glory.” (NEB)

“And the Spirit is the guarantee that we shall receive what God has promised His people.” (TEV)

- (Advance Reservations)
2. 1 Peter 1:3-4: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”
 3. 2 Cor. 5:1: “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”
 4. Heb. 10:34: “For you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”
 5. Col. 1:5: “Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”
 6. Matt. 5:12: “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,”
 7. Heb. 9:15: “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the

transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

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

C. Third, Christian names are already registered there - We are potential residents.

(Idea of citizens being enrolled in the City - permanent residents.)

1. Luke 10:20: To His Apostles, Jesus said, “Rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”
2. Heb. 12:22-23: “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 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.”
3. Rev. 21:27: “But there shall by no means enter in anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

II. WE EXPRESS THIS GREAT HOPE OF HEAVEN IN THE HYMNS WE HAVE SUNG FROM OUR CHILDHOOD.

- A. Our hymns and songs are mostly the aspirations of the poet put to music.
- B. In general, the last verse of our hymns speak of that Home Eternal.
 1. If there be no eternal abode - then this life has been meaningless.

a. LET US REVIEW SOME OF OUR BEST-KNOWN HYMNS:

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I’ll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I’ll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.

* * *

Lead me thru the vale of Shadows
Bear me o'er life's fitful sea
Then the gate of life eternal
May I enter, Lord, with Thee.

* * *

Closer to Thee, happy and free
Grant me, O Lord, ever to be;
Hear me in every cry
Stand near when I must die
Then take me home on high
Closer to Thee.

* * *

And if here I have earnestly striven,
And have tried all His will to obey,
T'will enhance all the rapture of Heaven,
When I've gone the last mile of the way.

* * *

Live for Jesus in life's morning;
At the noontide hour be His,
And at eve, when day is turning,
And inherit endless bliss.

* * *

To the work, to the work, in the strength of the Lord,
And a robe and a crown shall our labor reward,
When the home of the faithful our dwelling shall be,
And we shout with the ransomed "Salvation is free."

* * *

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death,
When I rise to world unknown,
And behold Him on the throne.

* * *

Come near and bless us when we wake,
E're thro' the world our way we take;
Till in the ocean of Thy love,
We lose ourselves in heaven above.

* * *

Soon He's coming back to welcome me
Far beyond the starry sky;
I shall wing my flight to world unknown,
I shall live with Him on high.

* * *

In hope that sends a shining ray,
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only Thou can'st give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live.

* * *

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

* * *

Till Jesus comes I'll sing His praise,
And then to glory go,
And live with Him thru endless days,
Because He loved me so.

III. HISTORY WILL SOME DAY END AND OUR LORD WILL RETURN TO TAKE US HOME ON HIGH.

A. Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica:

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
(1 Thess. 4:13-17)

IV. **IF WE WILL FULLY REALIZE THIS GREAT HERITAGE WHICH IS OURS. IT WILL KEEP US GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.**

A. Paul writes to the Phillipians:

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:13-14)

B. The Christian can't lose now or in eternity.

V. **WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN, IT WILL BE:**

A. A DAY FOR MAKING NEW FRIENDS:

1. Talk to Abraham about offering Isaac on Mount Moriah.
2. Talk to Moses about Mount Pisgah.
3. Talk to Samuel about Saul.
4. Talk to Elijah about his conversation on Mount of Transfiguration.
5. Talk to Peter about private talk with Lord in Galilee.
6. Talk to Paul about his sermon on Mars Hill.

B. A DAY OF REUNION:

1. Close loved ones - old friends.

C. A DAY FOR PRAISING GOD:

1. Describe Clarence Macartney's Scene in Heaven with Paul speaking. Finally, David leading all Heaven in song.

VI. NOTHING IS WORTH MISSING HEAVEN.

- A. Christians can have the best of both worlds.
- B. The splendors of Heaven are yours eternally.
 - 1. ILLUS: Grandfather singing “And when I come to the Gates of Gold, I believe they will open wide.”

“There’s a mansion now empty
Just waiting for me,
At the end of Life’s troublesome way”