

Heaven Is Not My Home; Philippians 1:21-25

Philippians 1:21–25; ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,

I. Home

- A. Home is where you hang your hat
- B. Bloom where you are planted

II. Heaven

A. Heaven vs. Paradise

1. “Paradise” is only used three times
 - a) Revelation 2:7; 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’
 - b) Luke 23:43; And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”
2. It would seem that Jesus just gave the thief on the cross a ticket to heaven... but
3. When Jesus comes out of the tomb, look what he says to Mary
4. John 20:16–17; 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”
5. If Jesus had not yet ascended to His Father, how could the Thief dine with Him in Heaven?
6. The Israelites traditionally held a view of the Third heaven being the abode of God
7. 2 Corinthians 12:1–3; 1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—
8. The story of the rich man and Lazarus sheds a little light on this as well
 - a) Lazarus was in Abrahams bosom receiving comfort, but there is no mention of him being in God’s presence
 - b) The rich man was in Hades which is different than Hell
9. Regardless of the path, Heaven awaits

B. Heaven awaits those with an obedience of faith

1. The Church in Smyrna
2. Revelation 2:11; He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’
3. The Church in Pergamum
4. Revelation 2:17; He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’
5. The Church in Thyatira

6. Revelation 2:26–29; 26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’
7. The Church in Sardis
8. Revelation 3:5–6; 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’
9. The Church in Philadelphia
10. Revelation 3:12–13; 12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’
11. The Church in Laodicea
12. Revelation 3:21–22; 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”

C. “To the one who conquers”

III. Earth

A. Originally a paradise

1. Adam and Eve
2. Genesis 2:7-15
3. Angel with flaming sword to block the path back to the garden
4. Genesis 3:24; He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

B. Twisted and perverse

1. Man continually perverted his relationship not only with God but with His creation
2. The flood
3. Genesis 6:5–6; 5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.
4. The tower of babel
5. Genesis 11:4; Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”
6. Sodom and Gomorrah
 - a) God destroyed those cities because of sexual perversion
 - b) The perversion that destroyed those people is now the law of the land
7. Out of the heart
 - a) Philippians 2:14–15; 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
 - b) Mark 7:14–23; 14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: 15 There is nothing outside a person that by

going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” 17 And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

8. If we fill our hearts with earthly thoughts and ideas, then that is what comes out
9. Philippians 4:8; Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

IV. Residence vs. Citizenship

A. We are residents of Earth, but citizens of Heaven

B. “Dwell on the earth”

1. To belong; to become established
2. Revelation 6:10; They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
3. Revelation 8:13; Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”
4. Revelation 13:5-15
5. Apocalipsis 13:5-15

C. “Citizens of Heaven”

1. Colossians 1:13; He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
2. Philippians 3:17–21; 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
3. Ephesians 2:19; So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

D. God has given us tasks to complete in our place of residence

1. To live out our lives dedicated to Him
 - a) To shine like lights
 - b) To be the light of the world
 - c) To be the salt of the earth
2. To speak about the mighty works of God to everyone around us
3. To be zealous for good works

V. Heaven is not my home

A. We can't do any of these in Heaven, only here on the Earth

- B. This is where our focus should be, not on our heavenly citizenship, but on our earthly home
- C. Yes, we long to be with the Lord, but to be here is more necessary