

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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**Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650**

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Our Elders:

**Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)**
**Tom Witherspoon
(766 – 5368)**

Deacons:

Joe Cronin
Jim Hall
David Witherspoon

Preacher:

John C. Robertson

A Glimpse into Heaven

Joy that exceeds our imagination awaits faithful Christians in heaven. Heaven is the prime motivator for the Christian's worthy walk in this life (Eph. 4:1ff). Thoughts of heaven inspire us to endure hardships (I Pet. 4:13), sickness, pain and sorrows (Rev. 21:4). The apostle John wrote, "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them*" (Rev. 14:13). Truly heaven will be a majestic place to spend eternity!

Faith is sort of a funny thing. While we believe that such a magnificent place as heaven exists and is awaiting its eternal citizens none of us has actually seen it. We learn about heaven from the experiences and revelation of the apostles Paul and John. Paul was "*caught up even to the third heaven... Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*" (II Cor. 12:2-4). John was given visions of heaven and recorded what he saw in Revelation 21-22. The apostle John saw a new city (Rev. 21:2) that was perfect in every direction (Rev. 21:16). This new city (Paradise) was of pure gold (Rev. 21:18) and had high walls with twelve gates made of pearl (Rev. 21:16, 21). The streets of the city were made of gold and there was no need for sun because God's presence gives the city light (Rev. 21:21-23). Within the walls of the great city one will find the "*river of life proceeding from the throne of God*" (Rev. 22:1). Furthermore, within the city rest the tree of life whose leaves are for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2). No, we have not put our eyes upon such a place but by faith we do believe that heaven awaits those who die in the Lord.

Not only does the Bible give vivid pictures of heaven but it also describes Paradise's inhabitants. People who die in the

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

We praise and give God thanks for hearing our prayers on behalf of **Madeline Cronin**. Madeline was examined by a neurologist this past Monday and it was determined that she does not have a tumor.

Nina Gray was taken by ambulance to the emergency room this past Tuesday evening. Nina had fainted on the floor and awoke in the hospital. She is having test run and will see a neurologist this week.

Keep **Jim Hall** in your prayers as he will be having a root canal procedure on one of his teeth tomorrow.

Traveling:

Due to the holiday season there are several of our members traveling out of town. Please pray for their safety and return.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson

696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York

692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy

4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

Lord will undergo a quick change in their resurrected bodies (I Cor. 15:51-56). We will shed our mortal bodies and be clothed with immortality (II Cor. 5:2). The immortal citizen of Paradise will be perfect in every way imaginable. A study of the book of Leviticus helps us to understand that recognizing the nature of God identifies the eternal citizen of heaven. Moses revealed the fact that blemished sons of Aaron could in no way serve in the temple of God due to said state violating the nature of God. Those who were lame, had a flat nose, deformed, had broken bones, dwarfed, had blemished eyes, scurvy, scabbed, and or broken stones (testicles) were deemed blemished. Said abnormalities affronted the normal and perfect God and thereby were not acceptable (see Lev. 21:16ff). Furthermore, those who had diseases such as leprosy were deemed "unclean" and unable to be within the camp of God's people as long as such a disease was attached to them (see Lev. 14). If one were to come in contact with a dead person they too were deemed unclean and unfit for dwelling within the camp of Israel (Lev. 21:1-3). When we read in Revelation 21:27 that no unclean thing will exist in heaven we gain a greater picture of the nature of heaven's inhabitants. Those dwelling in heaven will have no deformities, sicknesses, or any blemishes whatsoever. We will indeed be perfect.

The apostle Paul writes, "*For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself*" (Phil. 3:20-21). The mortal body of humiliation will be shed and the faithful will be given a new body. A crown will be placed on the head of the faithful (Rev. 2:10) and a white robe draped around their bodies (Rev. 3:5). The glorified Christian shall dwell eternally with God from that point forward (Jn. 17:1-5).

The Bible tells us that Hell, the abode of those who die in sin, will mirror heaven in only one aspect; i.e., it will be eternal (Rev. 20:10). Why not take the opportunity, that time currently gives us, and be justified of your sins (Rom. 5:1ff). Jesus' call will only be made available while you and I are among the living (Acts 2:38-39).

John C. Robertson

Remember the Gospel Message

Introduction:

Christians are the result of hearing and believing the gospel message. The gospel identifies deficiencies in one's life and provides the remedy. Through time; however, the gospel loses its level of importance in the lives of many. The very gospel that excited and informed one to salvation is latter pushed to the back of the mind. False doctrines and personal desire take the place of the void that has been formed by one's lack of interest in truth. To turn the mind back to the original truth that one obeyed we must re-establish the standard of God's words within our mind. The apostle Paul had to do this with the Corinthians. Let's examine I Corinthians 15:1-11 this morning that we may always remember the importance of the gospel in our lives.

I. Identifying the Problem (I Cor. 15:12-19):

- A. Some Corinthian brethren had taken the false doctrine of "no resurrection" and actually believed it (I Cor. 15:12ff).
- B. Paul's reaction to said departure from the truth is one of action (I Cor. 12:12).
- C. I Cor. 15:1ff is designed to remind the Corinthians of the message of truth that they had prior knowledge of (see Acts 17:32; 18:1-4).
- D. Let us be careful not to leave the truth for another doctrine (Gal. 1:6ff) or our personal weakness of flesh (Rom. 6:16).

II. Getting back to the Basics of Truth (I Cor. 15:1-11):

- A. Recall the "gospel" that was preached:
 - 1. The Corinthians had "received" the gospel.
 - 2. The Corinthians had taken a "stand" in truth.
 - 3. The Corinthians were "saved" by the gospel.
 - 4. Their salvation was contingent upon their "holding fast" the gospel.
- B. Paul reminds them of the deliverance and divine revelation which they accepted (I Cor. 15:3).
- C. Paul reminds the Corinthians of the reality of Christ's resurrection (I Cor. 15:4ff).

III. The power of the Gospel is the forgiveness of sins (I Cor. 15:9-11):

- A. Paul identifies his own personal sin.
- B. If God will forgive Paul He certainly will forgive us...

Conclusion:

The Corinthians had made ship-wreck of their faith. They had departed from the saving gospel message that was originally preached and received. The loving message of Paul was that they would regroup and reassess the current state of their faith. Faith that is based in anything but truth will save no one. If you have wavered in your faith through various erroneous teachings or weakness of the flesh I pray that you too would come to your senses before it's everlasting too late. Re-examine the gospel message and take a measurement of your life. Do you (and I) meet the gospel's standards?