

**MEMORY VERSE:** "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." 1 John 3:2, NKJV

## LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson explores, not the *reality* of heaven, nor a *description* of heaven, but heaven as where we'll spend eternity with God.

### 1. Jesus is the Prize of heaven (Mon, Wed)

- What makes heaven "heaven" is Jesus!
  - "Surely the greatest blessing of heaven will be to finally see Jesus and to thank Him, in person, for what He has done for us on this fallen earth." Qtly, Wed, par 2
- The ultimate purpose of the gospel has been to restore our face-to-face communion with God.
  - Adam & Eve's transgression caused a separation between humanity and God (see Is. 59:1-2; Gen. 3:8f; Rom. 8:7).
    - Humanity could no longer see God face to face (see Ex. 33:20; Jn. 1:18; 1 Jn. 4:12; Heb. 12:29; 2 Cor. 3:18).
  - Satan thought he had effectively cut off all communication between God and fallen humanity.

Satan flattered himself that he had forever broken the link between heaven and earth. But in this he was greatly mistaken and disappointed. Con 20.1

- By virtue of Christ's sacrifice and mediation, we will one day soon communicate with God face to face (Rev. 22:4; 1 Cor. 13:12; Job 19:27; 1 Jn. 3:1-3).
  - "Ever since He created humanity, God has given everything to restore our broken relationship with Him (John 3:16)." Qtly, Mon, par 1

The Father had given the world into the hands of His Son for Him to redeem from the curse and the disgrace of Adam's failure and fall. Through Christ alone can man now find access to God. And through Christ alone will the Lord hold communication with man. Con 20.1

Whatever crosses they have been called to bear, whatever losses they have sustained, whatever persecution they have suffered, even to the loss of their temporal life, the children of God are amply recompensed. "They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads." Revelation 22:4. COL 180.1

## 2. We must be fitted for heaven here (Tue)

- “...His name shall be on their foreheads” (Rev. 22:4).
  - “That is, we always will be thinking of Him.” Qtly, Wed, last par
  - While this is true, it is not the primary application. Names in the Bible refer to character, and the Bible is saying here, as in Rev. 13:16-14:1, that those who are saved have cooperated with Jesus in the formation of characters fit for heaven.

We cannot be ready to meet the Lord by waking when the cry is heard, “Behold, the Bridegroom!” and then gathering up our empty lamps to have them replenished. We cannot keep Christ apart from our lives here, and yet be fitted for His companionship in heaven. COL 413.2

- The “bride” and wedding imagery actual allude to this –
  - The bride has “prepared herself” (Rev. 19:7) by clothing herself in fine linen (Rev. 19:7, 8, NASB) which has been washed in the blood of the Lamb (see Rev. 7:14).
  - The bride and groom are to become one (see Eph. 5:31, 32).

The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding. COL 307.1

## 3. The invitation is ours to give (Sun, Thu)

- The Spirit and the Bride are now giving the invitation, and all who receive it are directed to repeat it! (see Rev. 22:17).
  - “Jesus invites you to come to Him, to abide in Him today, and every day, until He comes.... We should sense the urgency to work with the Holy Spirit to call others to come into a saving relationship with Jesus.” Qtly, Thu, par 1, 2

“The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.” Revelation 22:17. Everyone who hears is to repeat the invitation. Whatever one's calling in life, his first interest should be to win souls for Christ. DA 822.3

We should live in this world to win souls to the Savior. 4T 71.3

## CONCLUSION

“God initiated the relationship He has with you, and He will complete it. May we grow in love and in faith as we wait for that day, while always resting only in the righteousness of Christ, which is credited to us by faith.” Qtly, Fri, Summary

We want to get in the habit of talking of heaven, beautiful heaven. Talk of that life which will continue as long as God shall live, and then you will forget your little trials and difficulties. Let the mind be attracted to God. FLB 363 (Qtly, Fri, par 3)