

# Heaven, the Believer's Eternal Home pt. 2

By Charles Feinberg

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This is part two of the message heaven the believer's eternal home by Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg professor of Old Testament and dean of at Talbot Theological Seminary. In the first part of our study on heaven the believers eternal home we saw that heaven is a definite place for definite people with definite provisions. First of all of those provisions. The presence of our Lord Jesus Christ eternal life and peace there are other provisions as well rewards will be yet another provision of that marvelous place that we call heaven. In revelation chapter 4 Verse 14 we're given a picture of the coming condition of believers as they are in heaven revelation 4:4 and round about the throne were four and twenty thrones and upon the Thrones I saw four and twenty elders sitting arrayed in white garments and on their heads crowns of gold. Here is a distinct picture of rewards for believers. They are enthroned and crowned. What marvelous marvelous grace of God to give hell-deserving sinners such wonderful rewards but all because of Christ and Calvary. Revelation 21:7 we read he that overcometh shall inherit these things. The Fountain of the water of life.

And so many of the other things that have already been mentioned in Revelation 21 verses 1 to 6 summing them all up the spirit of God through the Apostle John says he that overcometh, and the overcoming is by faith as in first John 5. He then overcomes overcomes by faith. Our faith is that which overcomes the world he that overcometh shall inherit these things

and I will be his God. And he shall be my son. Marvelous thing that God is going to make more real than ever before. His relationship to us that relationship he sustains to us as father to son. It was the great evangelist of another generation Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman of the East who had a friend who was in the Crimean War. Chapman tells that he had received a Medal with the name of his battle on it just that day. He said the most touching part of it all was the experience of a friend of his who fought by his side.

And this is what he told Chapman. A cannonball took off one of the legs of this friend but the brave fellows sprang up immediately and taking hold of a tree. The soldier drew his sword. He was ready to fight even to death. But immediately another cannonball came crashing past and took off the other leg. His buddies carried him wounded bleeding and as they thought dying to the hospital. Amazingly, he came back to life again. Well when the day came for the awarding of the medals, they carried him upon his stretcher. Before her majesty the queen Queen Victoria to the other soldiers, she had simply given the medals by the hands of her secretary. But when she saw this man carried in on a stretcher his face so thin, drawn, and pale. The queen rose from her seat stooped down by his side and with her own hands pin the medal on his breast while the tears fell like rain on the face of that brave soldier. Friends, so it will be with many of the redeemed.

We shall come into the glorious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall stand face to face with him and he will rise from his throne coming forward to receive us as we look up into his face thrones and all else will vanish away crowns will be as nothing for to see him in all his beauty will be reward enough in itself. Yes, that's another provision of Heaven our eternal home rewards and no one can compute all the fullness of it. I know there are some who foolishly say I want to serve the Lord and I don't care if I don't get any reward. Ah. Do you not want rewards that you may cast them at the feet at those pierced feet of the Lord Jesus Christ? And if he says

he gives reward for faithful servant who are we to say we do not want rewards. Even our Lord Jesus wrought and died. And served with the prospect of reward who for the joy that was set before him, Hebrews 12 one and two, who for the joy that was set before him endured the Cross despising the shame and bless God is now sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high.

Now a lot of folk think of heaven and I've heard them speak uh well I don't know whether I'm going to be too happy because I'm really a sort of a body that likes to be up and doing. I am a rather energetic person. I like to be busy and about things. I wonder if there will be any service in heaven or will we just be seated and rejoicing there and a sort of a in a deck chair. We might say as one does on a ship going abroad. Is that the way we're going to be on silken pillows. No no. There's going to be service Revelation 22 three and four and there will be no curse any more than the throne of God of the lamb shall be therein and his servants shall serve him. There is going to be service that's one of the provisions our hands will have ample to do. Our hearts will have ample to occupy them our spirits will be filled with adoration as we worship God and Christ and the spirit of God. His servant shall serve him and they shall see his face and his name shall be on their foreheads there'll not only be service there's going to be fellowship. What goes for fellowship on earth today is sort of a camaraderie even unsaved people talk about fellowships and so on.

Ah but the true fellowship. First John one is with God the Father and with his son the Lord Jesus Christ. And it is going to be unending hear it Revelation 21 three and I heard a great voice out of the throne saying the whole the tabernacle of God is with men and he shall dwell with them and they shall be his peoples and God Himself shall be with them and be their God always with him. Never ending communion never ending give and take will we be happy. So many folk think that happiness joy is the be all and end all of life. Well you remember our

friends that we've already read from this remarkable chapter and I trust you will go back over revelation 21 and 22. Those two chapters thank God are just packed full of things that are going to be in heaven. Revelation 21:4 he's going to wipe away every tear from their eyes. Do you have any concept friend of how much of the soil of the earth has been soaked has been wet with the tears of men and women and children oh tears are a universal language. You find them the world over especially in this life, which is called the veil of tears. But in that coming day we read he's going to wipe away every tear from their eyes and when God does the wiping away there's not going to be a recurrence of it. Psalm 16 11 there's not a great deal stated concerning heaven. In the Old Testament, because it had not yet been made manifest Christ had not yet died to open heaven for us.

But there are a few glimpses Psalm 16 11 is one of the beautiful ones on the coming provision of joy in heaven thou would show me the path of life in thy presence is fullness of joy. Well you say I have joy in God's presence now when I'm in prayer when I'm in communion when I'm in adoration when I'm in intercession when I'm just sitting and allowing my heart to be drawn out in adoration and fellowship with the Lord. Ah but the next portion tells us it's in his presence in his actual presence in thy right hand. There are pleasures forevermore Psalm 16 11. You say well that's wonderful. But I do wonder whether I am going to see loved ones my little one that's gone on that died in infancy whether I'll see that one whether I'll see my beloved children whether I'll see my beloved husband or my beloved wife that's gone on. Oh yes yes there's going to be not only union but reunion and permanent reunion we're to be of good courage 2 Corinthians five eight I say and are willing rather to be absent from the body. This is a rather this is something better to be at home with the Lord. Well when you're at home, you're certainly reunited with loved ones first Thessalonians four seventeen tells us that the dead in

Christ are going to rise first and then we that are alive and remain are going to be caught up together with them.

To be ever with the Lord and so shall we ever be with the Lord. And we read in scriptures. They shall go no more out forever next to seeing Jesus friends seeing our loved ones and don't apologize for it. Oh no don't apologize for our Lord Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus. It's human it is not. It is not outside the will of God. We are not to weep unduly. Not to mourn as those that have no hope but remember next to seeing Jesus seeing our loved ones who have died and gone on to be with the Lord will be the greatest joy. Some ask whether we shall know them there's just one answer to that. Friends it is not a guess or a hope so. We shall absolutely know them. You say do you really have proof if we have no proof friends. Then it's just a guess. We do have proof. And may I say it is ample proof. Listen to Matthew. Chapter 8 verse 11. Our Lord Jesus says I say to you that many shall come from the east and the West and shall sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven even in the millennial earth the rule of heaven on earth Abraham has not lost his identity we'll recognize Abraham and if you don't believe that we will. Luke 16 Abraham and Lazarus and the rich man they hadn't lost their former identity.

No when Lazarus said, Father Abraham tell Lazarus to go and tell my kinfolk or let him come and somehow assuage the terrible pain let him give me some water that my tongue may partake of it. He knew Abraham Lazarus did and the rich man knew both Abraham and Lazarus, they all knew each other they had not lost their former identity. Then in Matthew 17, we read of the Mount of transfiguration experience there at the bottom of the Mount. Peter James and John at the top of the mountain a central figure that blessed one with whom they had already fellowshiped for a long time. Who was it? Our Lord Jesus they knew him. They'd eaten with

him slept with him ministered with him heard his blessed words seen his blessed deeds. But who are these other two the two other individuals. Moses, Moses had died centuries before the ancestors of Peter James and John were born. And the other one was Elijah Elijah. How was it that they recognize Elijah? He had been caught up to heaven centuries before any of their ancestors were born and it wasn't that they had somehow ID cards or labels on their lapels as we have at receptions, one saying I am Moses remember me from Mount Sinai and the other saying on Elijah I am Elijah you remember me from Mount Carmel we are the mountain prophets. No no such thing. They were recognized as such. On the mount of transfiguration it's true Elijah hadn't died but Moses had yes, we'll recognize those whom we shall meet to live come through translation through the rapture or by way of death.

The account is told that when John Evans that godly Scottish minister was seated in his study his wife came in very much in earnest and with an urgent request she said to my dear could you please tell me will we know each other in heaven. He turned to her and said my dear you think we shall be bigger fools in heaven than we are here. We know each other here of course we'll know each other there when I'm ministering in different parts of the country it's not unusual for someone to come quietly up and say do you think preacher do you think brother that we're going to know each other in heaven. And they said in such a secretive stealthy way. I sometimes wonder whether they want to travel around in heaven incognito. No, we'll all know each other we shall all be changed. Yes we're going to know each other. Someone has put it beautifully. This is anonymous but it's been put beautifully a little way. I know it's not far to that dear hole where my beloved are and still my heart sits like a bird upon the empty nest and mourns its treasures gone plume for their flight and vanquished quite. [Inaudible]

Where is that comfort though I say they have. But journeyed on a little way a little way. At times, they seem so near their voices even murmur in my ear to all my duties loving presence lend, and with sweet ministry, my steps attend. Twas here we met and parted company. Why should their gain be such a grief to me? This sense of loss this heavy cross dear savior take the burden off I pray and show me Heaven is but a little way a little way. The sentence I repeat hoping and longing to extract some sweet to mingle with the bitter from thy hand. I take the cup. I cannot understand and in my weakness give myself to thee although it seems so very very far to that dear home where my beloved are. I know I know. It is not so. Oh, give me faith to believe it when I say that they are gone gone. But a little way. Story is told of the doctor's wife. She was so wrapped up in him and when he died, she couldn't change the sign. She just kept the sign up. It said gone out, back soon. Yes. Heaven is a place with all those provisions and that last one permanent reunion. And yet I would be totally amiss. I would be totally remiss and derelict in my duty if I did not in this study tell you that though heaven is a definite place for definite people with definite provisions.

There is a definite prerequisite for heaven. There is a definite requirement for folk to get to heaven. Not everybody. As the old song has it not everybody says I'm going to heaven is going to get to heaven. It takes more than saying so. Not everybody will be in heaven. Only those who are prepared we said so it's a prepare place for prepared people. Those who are ready. You say how well nothing unclean or sinful will enter there. But you said we are all sinful were all unclean right. But there is one who makes all of us clean and there is the word here. There shall in no wise enter into it heaven anything unclean or he that maketh an abomination and a lie. But who are those that are going to be there. But only they that are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. And how does one get into the Lamb's Book of Life. Here it friend just reach out with a

hand of faith and say nothing in my hand I bring simply to thy cross I cling. Other refuge have I none. Hangs my helpless soul on thee, yes not anything I can do not anything that I can accomplish by the deeds of our own hands, the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in God's sight. Not by works of righteousness that we have done. No. That's impossible to get to heaven that way.

I know there's a popular notion that the way of getting to heaven is by trying to coax the Apostle Peter into letting folk in. He has the keys to the kingdom of heaven. That's a travesty. The Bible doesn't tell us that it says believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved it says oh we like sheep have gone astray. We've turned every one do his own way and the Lord hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all oh the place to make sure of getting to heaven is not at the gate of have. Oh no no no it's here and now. Now is accepted time. Now is the favorable hour, now is the day of salvation the door to heaven is not up in heaven at all. It's here on Earth Christ said I am the door by me if any man enter in he shall be saved. He's going to find pasture. He's going to go in and out and find that glorious pasture. It was our Lord himself who said in John 14:6 I am the way I am the truth. I am the life. Notice he didn't say a way or a better way or even the best way. He is the only way I am with the way all others are excluded. I am the way the truth and the life.

No man cometh unto the father but by me he said he that hears my words and leaves on him that sent me he has eternal life. He is not coming into condemnation but has already passed out of death into life. Yes my dear friends Peter was right in Acts 4:12. Neither is their salvation in any other. There's none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be the divine imperative whereby we must be saved. It's not a matter of option there are a lot of things in this life that are optional that we can have choices that we can have an alternative but not here.

It's one way and only way. And you know when Christ said I'm the door that was a tremendous truth and door has a twofold function. It is inclusive and it is exclusive. It excludes all. When it is shut. But when it's open all may enter in at this time. Christ is the door inviting us come unto me all you that Labor and are heavy laden. And I will give you rest. But in a coming day when unbelieving ones will want to come in on their own terms you'll say I knew you not. They'll be knocking but the door will be shut. I know you not. Friends. Let's make it personal. Let's make it worthwhile. Are you ready for this blessed place. You may be listening to this study in the home of a friend a Christian friend. Or elsewhere. I want to ask you personally with deep interest and deep sincerity are you ready for that blessed place heaven you cannot leave it to chance.

Oh how if we could only impress it upon your mind and heart. You dare not. You cannot leave it to chance that somehow someday we'll muddle through. We'll get there we'll just go through with a stiff upper lip. No you won't. Remember some of us will be expecting you there. Will you be there. Don't leave it to chance. The account is told some time ago there was an engineer and a good one that ran out of Baltimore Maryland. He had his home close by the rail road was a railroad engineer and his home was close by the railroad and as he would pass his engine. His little girl the very delight of his heart would run out in the yard to see him go by. She knew when he would be passing they had a rendezvous. They had a set time after a while he knocked off a picket or two from the fence so she could see a better she could see him farther down the railroad tracks. And there she put her little head through and watched and watched and waited until he came and then until he was out of sight. He never failed to be at the side of his engine to see her to wave back. To throw kisses to her and she never failed to be at the fence looking for him.

But one day he came back on his run and looking out he couldn't see her. His heart missed a beat. Missed another beat. he thought probably he wasn't looking carefully enough. That he couldn't see her. He was immediately alarmed. He knew something was wrong at home. She'd never feel me there. He finished his run as fast as he could. Hurried home he was met by his wife at the door. And fear struck his heart because there his wife met him with tearstained face. He said What's the matter dear. She told her husband their little girl had been suddenly unexpectedly without warning taken sick. The doctors said she couldn't possibly get well he dropped to the floor as though shot with a gun with a broken heart. And when he got control of his voice he said is she still alive the mother said yes but she's very sick. She didn't know whether she'd still be alive when you got home so she told me to give you a message in case she didn't see you again. Impatiently he asked What is it. What is it. She said our dear little one said. Tell Papa I'm going to ask Jesus to take out the picket from his fence and I'll watch for him until he comes.

The little girl did pass away and that father who had never trusted Christ before he had not been a believer before kept thinking and thinking of that little girl's message. And thank God he found Christ. He didn't want his dear little girl to watch in vain. There may be a father or mother a loved one who's watching waiting let them not watch in vain. Again, the only way to be sure of heaven is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. Our Father in heaven how shall we ever begin to praise thee that thou hast prepared such a marvelous place. And prepared us for the place with so many many provisions and then to think of it thou hast made the requirement to enjoy it to enter in. Thou hast made it so simple that the wayfaring man thou a fool cannot err therein. You've made it so available to us. You've made it a gift.

We just have to reach out the hand of faith and lay hold of it and say thank thee that thou hast given Christ to die for him I receive him as my surety as my guarantee for my entranceway my admission to heaven. Lord, we thank thee for it. We shall thank thee aright and praise thee aright in the presence of our Lord Jesus and loved ones who whom we've loved who've gone on before all the intervening time will be wiped away as nothing when we see thee and see him and those precious to us. We give thanks we give thee the gratitude the deepest gratitude of our hearts and the glorious blessed of our Lord Jesus Christ amen amen. [End]