

November 28, 2020

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

HEAVEN IS...

Heaven is the dwelling place of God. King Solomon prayed to God, “Hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive” (2 Chronicles 6:21). The Psalmist declares, “The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord's throne **is in heaven**; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men” (Psalms 11:4).

Heaven is a spiritual, not a physical place. John 4:24 tells us that “ God is spirit” and 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 tells us that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” which will necessitate a change described in the words, “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” which will occur at the second coming of Christ.

Heaven is a prepared place. Jesus promised, “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” (John 14:2-3). Where Jesus is now is in heaven sitting at the right hand of the throne of God having ascended to heaven forty days after His resurrection from the dead (Acts 1:3, 9-12; 2:25, 33). Jesus now reigns over His spiritual kingdom as King of kings and Lord of lords serving as our High Priest and the Mediator between us and God (1 Timothy 6:15; 2:5; Hebrews 2:17-18; 1 John 2:1).

Heaven is reserved for those cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Colossians chapter two speaks of the “inheritance of the saints in the light” and then tells us, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 2:12-14). 1 Peter 1:4 identifies this inheritance as heaven - “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you.”

Heaven is not the eternal dwelling place of those who choose to practice sin. “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie” (Revelation 22:14-15). Those who practice the “works of the flesh” will “not enter the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19-21).

Heaven is real. It is reserved for the faithful. Are you making preparation to dwell eternally with God in heaven? Visit us online at greenplainchurchofchrist.org. Visit us Sunday for morning worship at 10:00 am and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.