

“Blessings of Heaven”

06-14-15

“There’s no place like home...there’s no place like home.” That’s all Dorothy had to say in order to return to her home in Kansas. (Well, she also had to close her eyes and click her glass slippers together) If you’re familiar with the movie *“The Wizard of Oz”* you know that within moments of repeating the phrase, *“There’s no place like home,”* Dorothy was back in her own bed with her family and friends standing around her. As she awakened from her dream those words were still on her lips. And even though no one believed Dorothy’s story about the Land of Oz, the movie ends with her saying, *“There’s no place like home!”*

We all know the feelings connected to it. Open to 2 Corinthians 5. After a hard day at work or a difficult day at school during the school year, we may think to ourselves how good it is to be home. Even if we’re returning from an enjoyable vacation, we still like getting back to our own space and our own bed. Even if things aren’t always perfect at home we still often say, *“There’s no place like home.”*

As children of God through Christ we can take Dorothy’s feelings about going home and what we’ve felt about our earthly homes, and multiply them many times over in connection to our heavenly home. Verses 1-4, *“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.”*

While we’re on earth, we’re living a very temporary life.

We’re living in a **tent**. Unstable. Made with human hands. Temporary.

While we’re here we **groan**. We all have struggles. Uncertainties. Injustices.

We have a sense of **longing**. We know that there has to be something better and we also

know that this isn’t it!

We’re **burdened**. Because we know that the eternal is yet to come, this temporal existence feels burdensome. Paul doesn’t wish to do away with His temporal existence, because God has His purposes for all things. Instead Paul prays that God would swallow up his mortal life with Christlike immortality in His time.

Let’s look at the blessings of heaven. What’s it like, how’s it different than living on earth, and what do we receive there?” Look again at verse 1, *“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

It’s **God built**. It’s a permanent dwelling. The same Creator Who put all creation together is the One Who’s prepared an eternal home for us.

We have the **Spirit as a guarantee**. Verse 5, *“He who has prepared us for this very*

thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.” God doesn’t just give this

as something wonderful, but as He gives it, He makes sure we’re never alone. In the

waters of Baptism, the Holy Spirit is given to us and remains with us all through life

on earth and continuing in heaven.

We have **good courage**. Verse 6, *“So we are always of good courage. We know that*

while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.” When on earth we’re

away from God, and that’s not very comfortable. When we’re in heaven we’re always with Him. Good courage is so important to us in our walk of life, Paul talks about it in verse 8 as well, “Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” Death divides our body from our soul, but we can be of good courage because be it on earth or in heaven, we’re never away from the Lord!

Heaven is the **reward of faith**. Verse 7, *“for we walk by faith, not by sight.”* We trust in

God’s promises, not in what we see with our eyes. That’s what faith is!

Faith is

something that we’re looking for, even though we don’t know what it is. We trust!

We look forward to the future knowing what it is, knowing that heaven is our home, knowing that this earthly tent will come crashing down only to be raised up by God Himself. He says as we live in this life, we’re looking ahead and groaning for what is yet to come, the return of Jesus, His Son.

We’re looking for what’s to come, our inheritance in heaven. We’re also confident of what we have, and what we have is heaven itself! God’s gift is heaven, all because we live by faith and not by sight.

Open to 1 Peter 1. Peter wrote in verses 8-9, *“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

Friends, while we wait, we live for the owner of our eternal house until we arrive there. We serve Him and share Him with everyone! With you, I look forward to the time when God will say to you and to me, *“Welcome home. Welcome to your eternal house.”* Then we will say together forever, *“Thank You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Because of what You’ve done and what You’ve given, we can truly and sincerely pray, “There’s no place like home, there’s no place like home!”*