

# PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

## 2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:1-10

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL

*developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:1-10

The reality of Eternity and Heaven, the Dwelling Place of God – No doubt had a profound influence upon the Apostle Paul.

One Effect was That of His Pride. - - Mankind is a Victim of Pride.

A man's pride is a dangerous and damning influence.

Proverbs 6:17 warns about the "Proud Look"

#### 2 Corinthians 12:1-6

It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to **visions** and **revelations** of the Lord: **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - - whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows - - such a one was **caught up to the third heaven**. **3** And I know such a man - - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows - - **4** how he was **caught up** into **Paradise** and heard **inexpressible** words, which it is **not lawful** for a man to **utter**. **5** Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. **6** For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me **above** what he sees me to be or hears from me.

:**7** And lest I should be exalted **above measure** by the **abundance** of the revelations, a **thorn** in the flesh was given to me, a **messenger** of Satan to **buffet** me, lest I be exalted **above measure**. **8** Concerning this thing I **pleaded** with the Lord **three times** that it might **depart** from me. **9** And He said to me, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect(ed) in weakness.*" **Therefore** most **gladly** I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the **power** of Christ may **rest upon** me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in **infirmities**, in **reproaches**, in **needs**, in **persecutions**, in **distresses**, for Christ's sake.

For **when** I am **weak**, then I am **strong**.

### WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL

1.) Things become clear

v. 1-3

1a.) We become less

v. 1

It is doubtless - - not profitable for me to boast. (*here's the reason*)  
I will **come** (*reminding you of, tell you of*) to **visions** and **revelations** of the Lord:

**Paul Simply, Factually tells us** that God had worked through Paul.

**“I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord”**

*like Acts 9 & 22 - His conversion and his calling*

**Ephesians 3:3,5-6**

how that by revelation God made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already... **5** which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: **6** that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

**WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL THINGS BECOME CLEAR  
I BECOME LESS “IN A VERY GOOD WAY”**

**1b.) God becomes more**

**v. 2-3**

**2** I know a man (*third person reference*) in Christ who **fourteen years ago** (43 A.D.) - - whether **in** the body I do not know (*physically*), or whether **out** of the body (*consciously*) I do not know, God knows - - such a one was **caught up** to the **third** heaven.

**“fourteen years ago” = (43 A.D.)**

**This places Paul on his first missionary journey.**

**Acts 14:19**

Then (*the*) Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there (Lystra); and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

**I lean toward Paul having been Martyred at Lystra,  
today’s Klis’tra in Turkey. Why?**

whether **in** (*physically*) or **out** of the body (*consciously*) I don’t know, Only God knows - -

**caught up to the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) heaven**

**caught up** grk: ἀρπάζω **harpazo**, *har-pad’-zo*; to be suddenly seized, to catch-away, pull upward by a violent force.

I remember when our astronauts would return from space. ABC, NBC, CBS news all had their reporters there with hopes of an interview!!!

The **third** heaven = which will set the stage

**1<sup>st</sup> Heaven** is the atmosphere nearest the earth,  
(the birds of the air fly in the midst of heaven or atmosphere).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Heaven** is the Stellar space, the plants moons and suns and stars,  
(deep space craft fly in that atmosphere).

But, **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven** is not only beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> - - **it is in the Spiritual Realm.**

**WHEN HEAVEN BECOMES REAL**

**2.) Life becomes exciting**

**v. 4-6**

How he was **caught up** into **Paradise** and heard **inexpressible** words, which it is **not lawful** for a man to **utter**.

**Paradise** grk: παράδεισος **paradeisos**, *para-di-sos*; of **Oriental-Persian origin**. a park as in **THE** Park. **THE** Garden. **THE** Eden.

*Which leads us to think that the Garden of Eden on earth was a model or a copy of what is in heaven. Awesome!!!*

and heard **inexpressible** words, which it is **not lawful** for a man to **utter**.

Whatever it was that Paul heard - He was **forbidden** to talk about it, write it down or to even tell others of what he saw and heard. *(but paul. You can write a NYT best selling book)*

### 1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

**Notice: Paul had full awareness and consciousness** of what he had seen and heard – think of it. There was only a relocation.

### Our Going Home = Are You Going Home ?

"I have discovered that the people who are going to heaven, are also the most excited people about being in heaven."

- H.A. Ironside

### This Leads Us To Consider The Facts About Us.

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Do you desire <b>to know God</b> | more and more ?              |
| (2) Do you desire <b>to worship</b>  | Him now down here on earth ? |
| (3) Do you desire <b>to pray</b>     | in communion with Him?       |

If the answer is "No" to these questions - - then you wouldn't be very happy in heaven. There's not much there to interest you.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<<

*End of Study*

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