

## THE SERIES

# “HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”

**ROMANS 12:1-2**

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 490 JULY 29, 2009

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**EARTH TO HEAVEN, ARE YOU THERE ?**

*A SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP, HOLINESS  
AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Devotion, Holiness, Revival, Christianity, Heaven**

**Welcome to a brand new series Called:**

**“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”**

and it's my desire to make this series super practical and devotional.

While it is True that we'll be talking about heaven throughout the series,  
*We will be focusing more on the “requirements” needed to get us there.*

**Tonight's Introduction to the Series;**

**“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”**

Entitled: - - **EARTH TO HEAVEN, ARE YOU THERE ?**

**Our Theme Passage is Found in Romans Chapter 12**

**Romans 12:1-2**

I **beseech** (urge, personally challenge, plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that you present** your **bodies** a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable** to God, *which is* your reasonable service. :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

# What the Apostle Paul is speaking about,

is what the Bible calls, “holiness” or “a **holy life**”.

more specifically – the Bible teaches us about a “personal holiness of life - - a “**devoted life**”

All of Us Appreciate “Devotion” in Our Lives...

## Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people, and **holiness**,  
without which **no one will see the Lord**:

## We Should All Agree That There is a Crisis in the Church of Jesus Christ Today.

It's a crisis of **devotion** and **love** and **obedience** to God. – it's lacking !

Jesus Christ Himself Challenged Us In...

## Luke 6:45-46

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. :46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

??? Will You Allow Me  
to Be Direct and Personal in This Series ???

## EARTH TO HEAVEN – ARE YOU THERE ?

*“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”*

1.) Understanding us **being human**

1a.) The **complexity** of who we are

### 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify** you **completely**; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be **preserved** blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." :27 So God created man in His own **image**; in the **image** of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**image** tselem, tseh'-lem; a resemblance, something like, to reflect or the reflection of, a shadow of. – moral similarity or likeness.

**In all of God's creation there is nothing like us humans.**

### Psalms 8:4-6

what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? :5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. :6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

**Charles Spurgeon** Said that

*"if all of my thoughts about what heaven will be like would have to be reduced to just one – it would be that I shall someday appear like my Saviour, holy and complete."*

## UNDERSTANDING US BEING HUMAN

### 1b.) The **purpose** of our existence

**The Purpose of Our Existence/Lives is to Know God.**

But we need to meet Him first !

**Remember at the birth of Christ,  
The magi came from Babylon...**

**Matthew 2:1-2**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, that (Magi) wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, :2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

**Just like meeting a human being down here,  
- - impressions are made.**

**But meeting the Lord has an ever greater effect on you !**

**Philippians 3:10**

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

**Encounters With The God of The Bible  
Will always leave its mark on your life....**

**Like the Blind Man in John 9:25**

"...One thing I know: that though I was blind, **now I see.**"

**Exodus 28:36**

"You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, *like* the **engraving** of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

**The Result - Holiness Applied !**

**Zechariah 14:20-21**

In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be **engraved** on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. :21 Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts.

**Revelation 3:12**

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will **write on him My new name.**

# UNDERSTANDING US BEING HUMAN

## 1c.) The **meaning** of what matters

**You and I are often misled by this world.**

Our **eyes** are being lied to / Our **ears** are being lied to /  
Our **minds** are being lied to....

**how do you know if you have truly  
“encountered” God - *for realsies* ?**

**THERE ARE WAYS TO TELL.**

**If you have, you will desire Him - - for who He is.**

(1) not for what He can do for you. (2) Not for what He might do for you. (3)  
Not even to get us to heaven... **but because we have “experienced,  
encountered, we’ve met the Living God”**

**1 John 4:19**

We love Him **because** He first loved us.

My love for Him is based upon the fact that - - **He loves me !**

Nothing Else Matters in This Life **“If”**

We come to understand the **“who the Lord is”** part  
of our Faith. – He is the Lord God of All

**EARTH TO HEAVEN – ARE YOU THERE ?**

*“How Do We Get From Here To Heaven”*

## 2.) Awakening to the **greatest of needs**

## 2a.) That there is something missing

the word **holy** or **holiness** appears **654** times in the Bible

The first time the word appears is when  
Moses meets the LORD atop mount Sinai at the Giving  
of the 10 Commandments...

### Exodus 3:5

Then He said, "Do not draw near to this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* **holy** ground (sanctified dirt)."

Because wherever God is Encountered – that place becomes holy.  
Whenever God is Encountered – that moment becomes holy.

## why did Moses go up to mount Sinai?

(I think it was because he knew he needed more of who God is)

we have something missing and that something is Some One

**On Mount Sinai The Lord Spoke to Moses Great and Awesome things...**

### Exodus 33:18-23

And he said, "Please, show me Your **glory**." :19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." :20 But He said, "You cannot see **My face**; for no man shall see Me, and live." :21 And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. :22 So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. :23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but **My face** you shall not see."

## AWAKENING TO THE GREATEST OF NEEDS

## 2b.) That there seems to be no answer

because mankind “feels” alienated from God,  
man “feels” far from God because he is...

Because mankind, without God is at war with God...  
At war about **life**, about **death**, about **sex**, about **money**...

**James 4:4**

You Adulterers and adulteresses (spiritual) Do you not know that **friendship** with the world is **warfare** with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a **friend** of the world makes himself an **enemy** of God.

**Colossians 1:19-22**

For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, :20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. :21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled :22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight - -

## AWAKENING TO THE GREATEST OF NEEDS

2c.) That there is a **desperate hope**

let's **all** imagine with me for a moment;  
“let's assume that heaven exists, wouldn't you want to be there?”

**There is a desperate hope in Every Human Being  
To **obtain** or **earn** or to **discover** heaven...**

but wait – listen - - how do I get there from here?  
How do I get past the gates and inside?

The **concept** of heaven // The **desire** of heaven  
The **reality** of heaven // The **access** of heaven

**John 14:1-3**

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. :2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. :3 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.

*No one gets past the gates without knowing the owner.*

Why do you think God wants you in heaven ?

When most people don’t want you and I around?

*Because...*

**Ephesians 2:5-9**

even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), :6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, :7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. :8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, :9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

*Because...*

**1 John 4:8**

He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**

The Lord wants you in heaven because  
His very nature is “love” and love distributes, shares, gives out.

*But...*

**Psalms 99:9**

Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His holy hill;  
**For the LORD our God is holy.**

And that is why “**holiness**” is an issue of great need  
for us as human beings.



# EARTH TO HEAVEN – ARE YOU THERE ?

*“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”*

## 3.) Searching for the reality of redemption

### 3a.) We desire to be restored

**Psalm 29:2**

Give unto the LORD *the glory due to His name*;  
Worship the LORD *in the beauty of holiness.*

You & I cannot live the Christian life on our own – impossible !!!

**1 Peter 1:15-16**

but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct,  
:16 because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

## Restoration 101

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, :10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. :11 **And such were some of you.** But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

## SEARCHING FOR THE REALITY OF REDEMPTION

### 3b.) We want things to be real

**Romans 12:1-2**

I **beseech** (urge, personally challenge, plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present** your **bodies** a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable** to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

Being a **Holy Offering** is Required in Our Worship

### Have You Noticed

That you cannot walk into a bookstore without seeing volume after volume of;

“**How To Books**” on everything from “how to bake a cake to building a house, from restoring a car to learning how to fly...

those “**How To Books**” makes things possible

*“I want to ask you for your help in joining with me in ministry”  
after tonight will you extend your influence to others by being a real worshipper in every way?”*

## SEARCHING FOR THE REALITY OF REDEMPTION We want things to be real

3c.) We long for things **to change**

### **Identity Theft is a Strange Thing.**

Someone assumes your identity without becoming you.  
They only look like you in **data-form**.

**But When The Lord Changes Us – It’s Complete !**

#### **Colossians 3:1-3**

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. :2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. :3 For you died, and your life is **hidden with Christ** in God.

#### **Micah 7:19**

You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

**Psalm 103:11-12**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; :12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. – **that's pretty holy !**

I Want To Challenge You Personally,  
This Church Collectively...

*“will you join-up with me in a radical, serious, awesome mission  
in the pursuit of God?”*

“A Deeper - More Personal Relationship with God”  
is our goal, our aim and our bold intent.

**!!! We Begin the Series with a Vow,  
a Covenant with The Lord Tonight !!!**

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*End of Study*

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