

THE “HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN” SERIES

ROMANS 12:1-2

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

EARTH TO HEAVEN, ARE YOU THERE ? – PART 2

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

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Devotion, Holiness, Revival, Christianity, Heaven

We're In A New Series Called:

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”

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

Our “Theme” 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.**

Our “Theme” Verses is Found in Hebrews Chapter 12

Hebrews 12:14

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

There Is No Heaven without **Holiness** – God's Holiness

Our “Theme” Passage is Found in 2 Corinthians 5

2 Corinthians 5:16-18a

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. :17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. :18a Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ...

What the Apostle Paul is speaking about,

is what the Bible calls, “holiness” or “a **holy life**”. more specifically – the Bible teaches us about our “personal holiness of life -- a “**devoted life**”

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

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

...Is To Know God !

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

EARTH TO HEAVEN – ARE YOU THERE ?

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN”

2.) Awakening to the greatest of needs

WHEN IS A MAN MOST LOST ON A JOURNEY?

(WHEN HE’S LOST AND DOESN’T KNOW HE’S LOST)

LIKEWISE – THE MAN WHO’S IN THE GREATEST

OF TROUBLE WITH GOD IS THE MAN WHO THINKS HE’S ALRIGHT AS HE IS.

THE MAN WHO THINKS THAT HE’S JUST O.K. WITH GOD AS HE IS, IS A MAN WHO IS SATISFIED WITH HIS CONDITION AND THINKS HE DOESN’T NEED ANY HELP FROM GOD.

BUT THE MAN WHO SEES HIMSELF FAR FROM GOD,

AN OFFENSE TO GOD AND NOT EVEN WORTHY TO THINK OF GOD IS IN TRUTH
THE MAN CLOSEST TO GOD.

1 John 3:19-20

By this we shall come to know (perceive, recognize, and understand) that we are of the Truth, and can reassure (quiet, conciliate, and pacify) our hearts in His presence, **:20** Whenever our hearts in [a tormenting] self-accusation make us feel guilty *and* condemn us. [b For we are in God’s hands.] For He is above *and* greater than our consciences (our hearts), and He knows (perceives and understands) everything [nothing is hidden from Him].

AWAKENING TO THE GREATEST OF NEEDS

2a.) That there is **something missing**

because this is such a great and painful truth in our lives as human beings; we go through great effort and expense to fill this void in our lives. **“Something Missing?”**

we humans sense our **“displacement”** in this life because we were created to be in a **certain place**. – that place is a **designated place** – an **ascribed** place, a place of purpose = **holy !!!**

the word **holy** or **holiness** appears **654** times in the Bible
The first time that the word appears is when Moses meets the LORD atop mount Sinai at the Giving of the 10 Commandments...

Exodus 3:5

Then the Lord 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).”**

- 1- **Wherever** God is Encountered – *that **place** becomes holy.*
- 2 - **Whenever** God is Encountered – *that **moment** becomes holy.*
- 3 - And to **Whomever** the Lord Encounters – *that **man** or **woman** becomes holy*

But What Does This Mean – Becoming “Holy” ?

It's this. It's a 2-way street, a relationship, a dialogue.

It's the **“giving of yourself”** fully to the Lord

*to place yourself at His feet (ruth and boaz) in full surrender.
It's presenting yourself to Him – without reservation !*

*It is a **willful** presentation of who you are.
It is an **expressed** desire to follow Christ
It is a **severing** from this world's agenda
It is an **active** devotion to His plan
It is a loving obedience to His commands*

It's why Moses agreed to go up to mount Sinai

(Say what you will – Moses wanted more of Him)

we have **“Something”** missing and that something is **“Someone”**

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

Exodus 33:18-23

And Moses said, "Please, show me Your **glory**." :19 Then the Lord 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.*"

It's What Happened to Saul of Tarsus (The Apostle Paul)

Acts 9:3-5a

As Saul journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. :4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**" :5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Then What Became His Purpose for Life ?

Philippians 3:7-9

But what things **were gain to me**, these I have **counted loss for Christ**. :8 Yet indeed I also count **all things loss** for the excellence of **the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

**This Biblical Attitude
Will Change the World That You Make Contact With**
{ { Nothing's Missing Anymore } }

AWAKENING TO THE GREATEST OF NEEDS

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

What Answers to This life Does The World Have for You?

Not Getting an Answer Can Be

One of the Most Dangerous Things That Can Happen to a Person...
Because we will seek out an answer...

Our New Godless, Secular America Tells

*your children – There's no God, but there is a U.N. that will take care of you.
you don't need faith, Jesus - the government will provide for you.*

It's Inappropriate to Tell a 7th Grade Class

Jesus Christ Said John 10:10

"...I have come that you may have life, and that you may have *life* more abundantly."

It's Inappropriate to Tell a 12th Grade Class

Moses Ex. 20:13

"You shall not murder."

But Just Maybe - You're Starting to Think...

Is There a Heaven ? Why Is There a Heaven /
How Do I Get There from here ?

AWAKENING TO THE GREATEST OF NEEDS

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

Imagine with me for a moment;

"let's make a collective assumption tonight - - that heaven exists, If our assumption is true; **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 from here to there?
How do I get past the gates and inside?*

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 even want you around?

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

John 10:7

Then Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you,
I am the door of the sheep.

John 10:9

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved,
and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**? Who Do You Know that has a Better
Answer Than That ?**

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...

Psalm 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

People Are Looking for What's Real – To a Point.

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 a thing possible

“I want to ask for your help in joining with me in this ministry”
after tonight will you extend your influence to others by being a real worshipper after you leave the building ?”

SEARCHING FOR THE REALITY OF REDEMPTION

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 !!!**

will you “arise” for Jesus Christ
and present yourself to him fully this day?

End of Study