

VISIONS OF HEAVEN AND HELL BY JOHN BUNYAN

John Bunyan's Visions of Heaven and Hell We Shall Know Each Other – Chapter 5, Part 2 August 16th, 2020

We conclude today with John Bunyan's visit to heaven, so please read page 12, starting at the 2nd paragraph to the end of the page, of the PDF above of John Bunyan's, "Visions of Heaven and Hell" with the title; **Chapter 5 – We Shall Know Each Other.**

In the story, The Redeemed one says; *"Thus I have given you a brief account of our heavenly Canaan. It is not the thousandth part of that which might be said, yet it is enough to let you see it is a land flowing with milk and honey." In this happy place worldly relations cease. Nor is there male and female here, but all are like the angels. For souls cannot be distinguished into sexes, and therefore all relations are here swallowed up in God."*

Let's clarify who a "Redeemed One" is. They are a soul in heaven that is waiting on the resurrection of his/her body. In heaven, all of your relations are swallowed up in God. All of your time on earth is preoccupied with family, procreation of children, sexual relations, money, food, prosperity, and everything that man strives for...all of these things on earth is an exchange given in heaven for the glory of God. What an amazing exchange, because it's far beyond everything on earth that could be offered, and it is more than sufficient.

It's interesting to note that a person's sexual identity or orientation are not even part of their identity in heaven, but rather they are like the angels, neither male nor female. This is not to say that you who die a male or female on earth, will not have the appearance of being that in heaven, but rather you do not desire nor possess the ability to procreate. Once again, it's amazing to see that what we place so much emphasis in on earth regarding sexual pleasure and identity, does not even exist in Heaven.

What's on the news and social media all of the time? What's being promoted in movies, music, films, etc., is sexual identity, fulfilment and sexual orientation, money, fortune, fame; yet in heaven, it doesn't exist. All that people strive after to obtain and in many cases separates them from God, does not exist in heaven.

Let's read what Jesus our Saviour says about this in **Matthew 22:23-33**; *"23 The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 24 saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. 27 Last of all the woman died also. 28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her." 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are [[a](#)]mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels [[b](#)]of God in heaven. 31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." 33 And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching."*

It's important to note that the marriage partner you have now does not exist as your wife or husband in heaven, but rather both of you have become the bride of Christ and are as the angels. Again, all that people live for on earth is over in heaven. Should that not be your focus while on earth, being the bride of Christ? The Apostle Paul spoke about this in **I Corinthians 7:29**; *"But this I say, brethren, the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none,"*

Even though he was not married, he understood all that goes into marriage, he knew the distractions that come through marriage and how much focus can get off of the harvest of souls if you're not both going in the same

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direction. Paul continues saying in **verses 33-34**; ³³ *But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—* ³⁴ *and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband.*”

This isn't to contradict that marriage is from God. It is. We are living in a day and age where the church has placed more focus on the family and its issues, than that of individually and corporately preparing to be the bride of Christ. As Christians, there needs to be less focus on the family and more focus on the harvest of lost souls you can bring to heaven with you who will also become part of the bride of Christ. In heaven as the bride, everyone is on equal terms although some may have greater glories as we mentioned in previous messages.

If husbands and wives would spend more time and money on soulwinning and preparing for heaven than they do on Christian family counselling, psychology, self-help books, teachings, seminars that they pay for to be a better spouse and family; they would live happier, healthier lives that have an eternal purpose. This is not saying that you or your family may not need counsel during a challenging time, but it seems like today, everyone's focus is primarily on the family, self, internal healing, healing of marriages, children and family structure.

Some Christians have gone so far in their separation of the world, where they can't walk down the road to even greet or acknowledge their neighbour, Christian or non-Christian, because they're so into self, self-righteous and being set apart. Some go so far as to set up communal living, instructing their children to not communicate with anyone and keep their faces down while walking down the sidewalk, because they're separate from everyone else. So, I ask – all of the focus is on the family, but for what? It's only to be given up to Jesus in heaven to be equal with everyone else.

You heard it said that if the preachers' house is not in order, he's not fit to preach. So if he's preaching and his son rebels, he has to stop the ministry. But don't you think that the devil knows that too? Don't you think that the devil would do everything possible to get your son or daughter to rebel to stop you from ministering the gospel, to keep you from winning souls who will also become the bride of Christ? But many become religious and pious telling those preachers that they have to quit the ministry because their son or daughter are in rebellion, which is almost normal because the devil will do everything to stop you from preaching the gospel.

There needs to be less focus on family on frivolous, time consuming things being overly protective and more time on the harvest of souls. Preachers who are forced to leave the ministry because their children, husband or wife fall into sin or rebellion are now supposed to spend thousands of dollars on counselling to get their house in order. Ultimately, in heaven it's just you, your resurrected body and the souls you bring with you even if your spouse or children don't make it. Jesus said to go out into the world and preach the good news of the gospel, not to spend your time protecting, covering and sheltering your family from the world. Doing all of that as a religious act doesn't guarantee that your spouse or children will even make it to heaven. Each one has a personal will, either to accept salvation or reject it. Obviously, we know that we're to teach and train our children in the ways of the Lord.

We spend so much money, time, energy on me, myself and I and focusing on the family instead of focusing on the harvest. There is a big money market in Christian psychology and counseling, which take up time and energy to keep you from fulfilling the call on your life. Jesus says get your eyes off of yourself today. Jesus says seek first the kingdom of heaven and everything else will be added to you. These are the end times even as Paul alluded to in the scripture above in I Corinthians 7:29 that “the time is short.”

2 Timothy 3 says that in the end times “*men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, ^[b]unforgiving, slanderers, without self-*

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control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

Did you notice that children will be disobedient to parents? Jesus even said in **Luke 12:51-53**; *“Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵²From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”*

All of this division is because of being obedient to Jesus Christ, being the bride that He’s calling you to be. Wholly, set apart unto the bridegroom, Jesus. Jesus knew how family could divide and deter from ministry because even his family thought He was crazy and out of His mind, Mark 3:21. Should it be a big surprise to your spouse, family and others when you have the call of God on your life? Jesus didn’t stop preaching did He.

What can possibly be more important than sharing the gospel of salvation with someone and seeing their redeemed soul some day in heaven – because outside of your resurrected body, it’s the only other thing you can take to heaven with you; souls of men and women. You can’t take anything in this life that you value and cherish to heaven. Only souls. We’re not saying to neglect or forget the family at all, make that clear. It’s making the priorities right in seeking the kingdom of heaven first...and then...everything else will be added.

In the story, the Redeemed soul says to Bunyan; *“Here all human relations cease and are swallowed up in God Who is alone the great Father of all this heavenly family. As for the members of the family that I left behind in the world below, I have committed them to God. I shall be glad to see them all heirs of this blessed inheritance. But if they should join with the grand enemy of souls and refuse the grace offered them, and thereby perish in their unbelief, God will be glorified in His justice, and in His glory I shall still rejoice.”*

All of the cares that you have about family members making it to heaven and not going hell will not be a concern to you in heaven, and in fact the only knowledge of their salvation you have of them on earth is given to you by the angels who minister to the heirs of salvation.

Referencing angels in **Hebrews 1:14** it says; *“Are they not all ministering spirit’s sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”*

When a person is saved on earth, the knowledge of that salvation is given to you and every one else in heaven by an angel. That knowledge or awareness could be likened to the gravy, or the cherry on top of the pie, it’s the extra joy that is added to your joyful state in heaven to know that someone you shared the gospel of Jesus to was born again.

Jesus says in **Luke 15:7 & 10**; *“⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine [[a](#)]just persons who need no repentance.” “¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

As the angels and all heaven are rejoicing, all of that good news comes to you and me when we’re in heaven. So, be encouraged today knowing that everyone you have shared the gospel with in whatever capacity, that if at some point they become born again when you’re in heaven, you’ll get the good news. The angels and all heaven aren’t rejoicing over a new car you got or house you bought or how together the family is or the job you have or education you have; but are rejoicing over the soul who you preached to who ultimately got right with God and became born again.

If a family member, friend, or acquaintance, etc., rejects God’s salvation plan and decides not to be saved by Jesus and ends up in hell, it will simply be seen as a just decision that God has made and will not effect you at

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all in heaven. The only way you are going to know is by an angel announcing their salvation or bringing them to heaven after death.

Keep in mind that there is still a gap of time between becoming born again and actually dying which could occur immediately or years later. A person's salvation can become common knowledge in heaven, but whether they live the life of a Christian and not backslide will determine their salvation upon death. Either way it will not affect the redeemed soul in heaven because in heaven there is only joy and no sorrow and it will simply be seen as a just decision of God.

You need to personalize this message today. Look at family members and those you've shared the gospel with. What if they said the pray of salvation and the angels and all of heaven rejoiced, but what if they never stayed on the straight and narrow path and backslid. They still have a will. It will be a just decision by God to not allow them into heaven.

The story continues; *“Then I desired to know whether the saints in heaven understood and were concerned for what was happening in the world below.*

To this she replied, “As to the affairs of particular persons, we are not concerned with them and are ignorant of them. Only God is present in all places and sees all things. But the struggles and the victories of the church below is told to us by the angels, who are ministering spirit's sent forth to minister to those that shall be heirs of salvation. From what they report we are excited to renew our praises to Him that sit's upon the throne.”

Once in heaven, the redeemed soul doesn't turn on the news to follow all of the destruction, famine and plagues that have been prophesied about. That's not part of their thoughts in heaven, they're ignorant of it. So since angels are ministering to the heirs of salvation, there must be some pretty good campfire or bedtime stories – just to make it understandable in our terms. How about Peter being letting out of jail, Paul and Silas in the midst of their imprisonment and they're let out, all that went on with the Book of Acts church and all of the ministry of the angels to the persecuted church today – these angels are bringing reports of it all of those in heaven.

This sounds pretty exciting. It's like the salsa, or the spice or sugar that we like that's the icing on the cake, it's the bonus and good news; the angels are sharing the struggles of the church but are rejoicing in the victories of the bride of Christ. It causes heaven to rejoice! They may show up with battle scars after doing battle in the heavenly realms against the demonic forces, that's speculative.

It seems that knowledge of the Church is what souls in heaven know about, and not anything else, and this is given to them by angels who are ministers to the heirs of salvation. If angels are ministering to Christians, it would seem that sharing that knowledge with redeemed souls in heaven to be good. I don't believe that Christians can communicate with angels to give messages to loved ones in heaven or vice versa, redeemed souls in heaven communicating with angels to give messages to Christians on earth. This just opens up the door for all sorts of demonic activity in your life with familiar spirits that will lead you down a road that is not of God.

Don't pervert the ministry of the angels of God to the church with being able to communicate with angels who give messages to a family member in heaven and they're giving you messages back. That's of the demonic realm. Don't get involved in the worship of angels and their communication of messages from those in heaven, because that opens the door to satanic activity and what's called familiar spirits. The devil will come as an angel of light – don't get into communication with the dead from 'apparent messenger angels'. Angels of God do not bring messages from loved ones from heaven to you. The Holy Spirit is your gift that Jesus has given to you who you are to communicate with.

It's important today to examine your life. It's good to look at the gap in your life from when you accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour until now. It's good to examine how much time you've spent on soul winning and how

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much time you've time you've spent on focusing on the family, the cares of life and self. Are you going to be ready or are you going to be empty handed? Are you ready to give Jesus an account of your life? Do you want to see the slide-show or film of your life played? Examine your heart, examine the gap from salvation until now, look honestly at what you have to give up to start focusing on the harvest of souls. You have an eternity to face. Do not let what family or friends think about you deter you from preaching the good news of the gospel. Keep on praying and fasting for them but remember that they have a free will and will be accountable to God for their decisions. So this is for the Christian.

But now to those who got saved at one time but are now backslidden. You're in the world, you're caught up in the family and the cares of this and that, you've given up the salvation of your life for the pleasures of the world. The big celebration when off in heaven when you were at the altar and gave your life to Jesus, but somewhere in the race, you got off the straight and narrow and now you're on the broad and wide road. It's time to repent because there is no 'once saved always saved'. What have you done in the gap from the time of salvation until now that got you on the road of destruction? The only way out is to repent and ask Jesus to forgive you to get you back on the straight and narrow. You might die tomorrow and not make it into heaven. Those in heaven would not mourn about it because they see what God has done is just. That's what this story has showed us today. It's not God's will that anyone perish, but He will not get in the way of your will and your choice. Be ready to meet your Maker.