

This Life A Better Place To Be Than Heaven!

Could it be possible that our life here and now, on this earth, is a better place for us than heaven would be? Well, as for as our enjoyment and pleasant surroundings are concerned, perhaps not, but as for God's will in our life, we are better off. Let me explain!

Our life here on earth has opportunities, choices, and actions that we will not have in eternity, in heaven. If there is anything that Satan hates, it is the child of God who is living a Christ-like life in this life. Believers, who have already died and gone to heaven, cannot personally do anything personally do hinder Satan's kingdom; nor can they do anything about accomplishing the will of God for the life after they leave "*this present world.*"

We each have a responsibility for living our own life. Of course, we are to help others, as much as we possibly can to live good Christian lives – but we must each be responsible for -- and give an account for -- our own life

Romans 14:12, "*So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*"

This present life is a better place than heaven for us now, providing we can say as Paul at the end of his life, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father, at the end of His earthly life, "*I have finished the work that You gave Me to do.*"

How About you and me?

Can we say when we leave this life and face eternity, "*I have finished the Will of God for my life?*" If we cannot, then we'd better ask God to leave us here where we can do something about it -- where we can still grow, develop, and mature spiritually – and finish our labor for God.

We will not be able to do any of this after we leave this world. I believe that many saints in Paradise would give everything they have to be where we are. Now -- in this life – is where we can do something about the will of God -- and achieve the part of the plan of God for our life.

Keep in mind that our "*time on earth*" is getting shorter every moment in the face of the soon return of our Lord, Jesus Christ. John 9:4 warn, "*The night comes when no man can work.*" – And, without our work done, God would rather have us here on earth, in this life, than in heaven!

Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father, in the last hours He lived in this world, "*I pray not that You should take them out of the world but that You should keep them from the evil*" (John 17:15).

God desires you to live here as “*the Light of the World*” and “*the Salt of the earth*” and to get your part in the Body of Christ accomplished.

Many believers seem to exclaim by their life -- “*I am just dying to go to Heaven.*” I’ve witnessed those, when the doctor tells them they have very little time left on this earth, they want to *STAY HERE* -- and they do everything they possibly can to live here on earth a little longer!

OUR NOW - IN THE WILL OF GOD -
- IS MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN ETERNITY,
- THE MILLENNIUM,
THE NEW HEAVEN - OR THE NEW EARTH!

Our whole eternity is based upon our relationship to the will of God in this life on earth!

One of these days, Jesus Christ will return for His Bride, the Church. There will be immediately following, what Scripture calls “*The Judgment Seat of Christ.*” It is time when every child of God will receive “*his reward.*”

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

Nothing is more important to us, NOW, than living in God’s present will! If we take care of our part now, God will take care of us in eternity!

Why do so many Christians not live their lives NOW in the Light of Eternity?

To find the answer to this question we must go back to the time before God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden. The prophet Isaiah speaks about what caused the great one, Lucifer, to fall who every believer knows as Satan.

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:12-14).

Before Adam was ever created, Lucifer had a great position in God’s program but he opposed God’s revealed plan for him at the cost of losing the will of God. Note, in his “*NOW*,” he spoke two little words five times, “*I will.*” Sin was birthed as Ezekiel 28:12-17 states about the anointed cherub (referring to Lucifer).

In Ezekiel 28:12-17, God counted Lucifer's will by placing His, "WILL" by an equal five times. In God's presence only one 'Will,' can be done - (it should always be God's Will!)

Whatever opposes God's will is sin. So Lucifer lost the will of God and was cast out and a place was made for him into which he will be cast in God's own time - Matthew 25:41.

Lucifer, because he lost sight of God's will for him, chose to follow the lust and pride of his own heart and disobeyed the will of God, and by doing so sold out his place in God's kingdom for the present lust of his own will.

In Genesis, chapter 3, it was Lucifer who sold to the human family that which was born in his own heart. He tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and every son of Adam since, to lose sight of their future, (or God's will) and to satisfy their desire in the "*lust of the eye, lust of their flesh, and pride of their present life,*" (1 John 2:16) and do as he had done - use their own will to disobey the will of God. He knew once they followed their own will, they would miss or lose, God's will for them. Thanks be to God who has sent us His Word and His Spirit to expose Satan's plan!

A born-again believer, who has accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, has his sins forgiven and the assurance of eternal life, however, Satan will do everything he possibly can to follow them all their life and to rob them of their full reward in God's future Kingdom. Satan's work is to blind souls so they will not see "*Eternity's Value,*" seeing only the things of this "*Present World*" -- just as he tried to do to Jesus Christ in the wilderness.

In whom the god of this world -- [Satan] -- hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"

(2 Corinthians 4:4).

Satan also blinds the believer so he will not have vision of the will of God and the outcome of that 'Will' and thereby grow careless.

Paul, with his vision of God's will for him, prayed for "*Spiritual children,*" that they would not just receive salvation from their sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit and then stop. He prayed that they also might be "*full of the knowledge of God's will so that they might come into that which God had for them to do - so that He might be able to reward them at the Judgment Seat of Christ.*" They had been saved and had received the Holy Spirit and had a real experience for they had "*love to all saints*" -- a real test!

Reading Ephesians 1:13-25 and Colossians 1:1-13, we see Paul praying for those who were already believers in Christ Jesus. He took time out of a busy ministry to pray for those who were saved and who had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. He did this lest, "*after being saved from sin, they not understand God's real purpose and plan, and Satan should get advantage against them.*"

In Ephesians 1:13, Paul says, *“after that ye had the Word of Truth, the Gospel of your Salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise.”* They were Christians who had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Verse 15, said that they also had, *“Love unto all the Saints.”* So they were pretty good Saints. Paul gave things for them, but also was praying for them. Verses 17-19 tell the *“reason”* for his prayer. Paul had a fear in his heart that after these people had been saved, filled with the Spirit, with Love in their heart, they might yet miss God’s real *“Will and Plan”* – that which was in the mind of God when He called them unto salvation through Jesus Christ.

This is what the Devil does not want us to understand. If we want to take salvation as only a *“fire escape”* from Hell -- and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit just so we can sing, *“I so glad that I am one of them,”* the Devil doesn’t like it, but he let’s us go just so far. He never wants us to have knowledge of the real Eternal Purpose of God.

Paul’s prayer for the Colossian Saints was the same. Colossians 1:9-10 shares Paul’s prayer with us -- *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*

The Christian life is a walk. The saying, *“Some saints are so heavenly minded they are no earthly good”* is true! How important it is to be filled with *the knowledge of God’s Will!*

When Peter pronounced the *“heart trouble”* of Ananias and Sapphira before they died, he said, *“Why has Satan filled your heart?”* Their trouble came from not having a heart full of the Knowledge of God’s Will. If we as Christians do not have our heart filled with God’s Will, Satan will fill it with his will.

The Christian Life is a Walk and therefore requires a pattern or will to follow lest a person walk in vain. Those who have been saved and filled with the Holy Spirit must continue to read God’s Word and pray, in order to know the God’s will and use the equipment – the talents and abilities – God gave them for His Kingdom.

It seems that many Christians have missed a real understanding of the Will and purpose of God for their lives. Salvation is only a fire escape from Hell, and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit only a blessing to be consumed on themselves. They are like Israel who missed God’s real plan in delivering them from Egypt by not desiring to follow God on into the Land of Promise. Though they did not die in Egypt under Pharaoh, they did die in the wilderness. They lacked the same desire to press on into the Land of Canaan that they manifested when they were obeyed God’s plan to get out of the Land of Egypt in a hastily. Their experiences have been recorded in the Word of God for our profit (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Paul did not preach just a *“fire escape”* salvation, or *“just make it in,”* Gospel. He did not believe that and he did not live that kind of a life.

In Philippians 3:12 he said, *“I follow after, if that I may apprehended (or lay hold) that for which also I am apprehended (or laid hold of) Christ Jesus.”* Bu so doing he knew he would come out in Eternity’s day in the place God had planned for him, if he worked out God’s Will for himself in this present life. Where would you be today if you would have laid hold of God’s Will as God laid hold of you?

Look at what Paul said in Philippians 2:12-13, *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*