

I'm sure you've heard the phrase, 'Don't be so heavenly minded that you aren't any earthly good.' But when you consider the prayer of Jesus, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the phrase really doesn't make any sense. To be any real earthly good, we need to be more heavenly minded. We need an awareness of that eternal dimension, that unshakeable reality! This is exactly what the world needs. It needs heavenly men and women! The world needs more of heaven... not less.

I. THE PRAYER OF JESUS AND THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

- A. You know what's scary? We can look and not see. We can quote and not live. The Lord's prayer may be the most recited scripture of all time, and yet I wonder if we have wondered at it! Have you entered into the invitation? When's the last time you thought about heaven? When is the last time you went in?

Matthew 6

[9] Pray then like this:

***“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
[10] Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.***

- B. Jesus is not asking us to recite words. He's inviting us into the place where He is. The prayer demands that we be acquainted with this place. It's not just a final destination. It's where He is. And it's where our true life is, even now. This may give you some confidence...

John 17

[24] Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. [25] O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. [26] I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

- C. This is the high priestly prayer of Jesus. We know that His prayer and sacrifice on the cross were acceptable to the Father. So why should we not have confidence in receiving the answer. I'm experiencing the fire and joy and lightness of heaven. It's delightful! And I'm not going back to the heavy yoke of religion or the boredom of cynicism. Nosireebob! Nope!!

Ephesians 2

[4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3

[3:1] If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. [3] For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

D. Listen! Our theology manifested Himself in the flesh... He's not satisfied with empty words, rather He's the fullness of the Word. Why should we be satisfied with no experience? You're not meant to be satisfied with no experience of God! It's not doctrine that saves you. It's Jesus who saves... and heals and delivers.

E. Don't you know that God wants you to experience His love and the reality of His kingdom? How else can you preach? We are ambassadors of another kingdom, another reality... how can you declare what you've never known? The simple answer is, that you can't. But the good news is that you have been invited in. And so you can know. You can encounter Him. He loves you AND He wants you to be where He is and to see Him as He is! He's not a baby in a manger any more.

II. ULTIMATE REALITY

Revelation 4

[4:1] After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." [2] At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. [3] And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. [4] Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. [5] From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, [6] and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: [7] the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. [8] And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

*"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!"*

[9] And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, [10] the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

*[11] "Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."*

A. Can we pause for a minute to be practical? Judah just came in to talk with me, and I mentioned what I was writing about. Then I asked him if he knew that he was invited to enter into Heaven now?

And he said he did know, but wasn't sure how to get in. Perfect timing! Revelation 4 is an invitation. We access this reality by the Spirit through prayer and into prayer. ***“And at once I was in the Spirit.”*** You're missing out if you think this is just for John.

- B. The Father loved us so much He sent His Son to earth in the flesh. And He loves us so much that He sent His Spirit to bring us into His heaven. What's He doing??

III. THE MINISTRY OF JESUS IS RECONCILIATION

Colossians 1

[15] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. [17] And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. [19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- A. Oh, the power of the cross. It not just that He abolished the power of sin! But there's more. He once and for all ended the schism between heaven and earth. Sin severed these realms. Jesus brought them back together. When you understand it, can you imagine that it brings God any glory, any pleasure, that the church is still so unfamiliar with the heaven. His purpose was reconciliation. How can He be pleased with our continual separation?

2 Corinthians 5

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [18] All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Romans 8

[22] For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. [23] And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Also read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

- B. What are we groaning for? What is creation groaning for? The reality, the fullness of Heaven, Jesus, to come! There is a longing in us because we have the Spirit. The Spirit groans for the manifestation of Jesus... even the kingdom!
- C. While I was in Mexico I did a summation of my Matthew 24 series, and then I took questions. Anything pertaining to the end-times was open game. At some point I laid out the order of events that is future, and detailed through scripture. As I taught, I was convicted that I hadn't taught this

congregation some of those future things... I'm not talking about obscure prophetic passages, I'm referring to the parables of Jesus and the book of Revelation. Here's some milestones (Revelation 19-21):

- Jesus comes back
- The church is caught up to meet Him in the air
- 1,000 year reign of Jesus begins (The Millennial Reign)/ Satan is bound for 1,000 years

Revelation 20

[1] Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. [2] And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, [3] and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

[4] Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. [5] The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. [6] Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

- Satan is released
- Final battle
- Great White Throne Judgment
- Another 'It is Finished' moment

Revelation 21

[1] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

[5] And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." [6] And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

- The Father comes