

Baily
9/24/55
A.M.

"A Heavenly City"

N. Wilson

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Scripture Lesson:- Psalm 11.

Text:- Psalm 112:6. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance".

Introduction:- When I was busy on this sermon, the devil said to me, "Why preach such a sermon in such a very busy world, a world that is so busy with its own affairs. It is so busy that it will not give ear to such thoughts. It does not need them, and I doubt whether it desires them!" However, I have never met a man, who when this life is over, did not want to go the heaven. Heaven, is a city, that lieth four-square. The length is as large as is its breadth. The thickness of the wall is said to be 144 cubits, equivalent to 216 feet. The city measures 12, 000 furlongs. The length and breadth and height are equal. There are eight furlongs to a mile. That means that the height, length, and breadth of the city is 1500 miles each way. This city has twelve foundations or floors, each being separated by a distance of 125 miles. Each floor, or foundation, bears the name of one of the twelve apostles. II

There was a time when I considered the city to be rather small for God's people to dwell in eternally. But when I became aware to what God had really prepared for them that love him, I was in lost in amazement. I want you to see how immense this heavenly city really is. If that city were divided into rooms one mile in length, one mile high, and one mile wide, it would contain 3, 375, 000, 000 rooms, each room containing the space of one cubic mile. One of the most astonishing features about such a place is the time required to go over that city, visiting each room separately. If we were to begin at the creation of Adam to go through the city spending one hour in each room for 24 hours a day, at the end of six thousand years, we would have visited 52, 570, 560 rooms, leaving 3, 322, 529, 440 rooms yet unvisited. What a city. No mortal mind can comprehend nor describe in human language the splendor of that city. Jasper stone, clear as crystal, the sapphire, emerald, topaz, beryl, and all of the precious stones, and all the precious stones,

in their most glorious description, are but faint comparisons when taken in relation to the glory of the city that is to come. "The wall is as of jasper, the city itself is of pure gold." No wonder John describes it as "a bride adorned for her husband." There is enough to be seen in that city for eternity, but God's people will not be confined to the city. We are told that there are gates on the east, on the north, on the west, and on the south, so that God's people will have perfect liberty to examine the wonders of His universe, and God's promise to us is that He will continually show unto us the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

III

It takes people to make a city, how great a city may be largely depends upon how great its people may be. I have met some people who are going there. I have met them in tent meetings, in prayer meetings, in revival campaigns, in hospital rooms, in Sunday school classes, in missionary conventions, in homes of the church. These are fellow citizens with saints and the household of God. You know them when you meet them. It is not hard to tell a real Christian.

And the people will be just as real as the city is real. Matthew, a practical business man, writes, "And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and sit down with Abraham, and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven!"

These people will not lose their identity, Christ after receiving his resurrection body, was recognized. Mary Magdeline and the disciples recognized him. On one occasion he appeared to 500. And as he is so are we to be.

Martin Luther, the night before he died, was fairly well, and sat with friends at the table. The subject of their conversation was whether they would know each other or not in the next life. Martin Luther held that they would. And one reason which he gave was that Adam, as soon as he saw Eve, knew who she was not by discourse but by divine revelation. If the dis-

ciples recognized Moses and Elijah when they appeared with Christ on the mount of Transfiguration, certainly the disciples would be able to recognize them in Paradise. Moses and Elijah were recognized by the disciples without a formal introduction. Moses and Elijah had departed from the earth centuries before, yet when they returned, they had enough of their earthly personality, to be instantly recognized by men who knew them only by description. Paul puts it very plainly when he says that we shall then see not "Darkly" but "face to face". He says, "now we know in part, but then we shall "know even as we are known".

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Even now a mighty change is going on in every child of God. This work will continue, "Till we all come in in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Just as in nature, the egg, the caterpillar, the chrysalis, the butterfly, all are one, and yet distinct in their evolution, so what God started in me at Calvary and what began an operation in me at the New Birth will continue until I stand in His presence Glorified. And this is a part of the great gospel I am commissioned to preach. I must first preach "the gospel of the grace of God", Acts 20:24, a gospel that tells out the glad tidings of God's favor in acquitting the guilty sinner from the curse of sin. And then, in the second place, I must preach the gospel of Christ and tell the story of spiritual blessings which are wrapped up in a living Christ; and last of all, I must preach the gospel of the future eternal joy, which he will give to us "in that day". This is a full gospel of the Cross, and the Throne and the Glory.

And you will need such a gospel when you die! Of the thousand Christian martyrs who sealed the truth with their blood during the first three centuries of the Christian era, not one of them expressed in his last moments, so far as can be determined, that idea that his soul would die or become unconscious when the earthy body would dissolve. In the catacombs of Rome, the underground tunnels and rooms, in which the bodies of the martyrs were buried, the inscriptions reflect the faith of the followers of Christ. Here is one that reads, "In Christ, Alexander is not dead, but lives; his body rests in the tomb." To the martyrs who

Conclusion: - "The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance". What about the sinner and the ungodly? I believe that a part of your eternal misery will be the knowledge that you are eternally forgotten. There will be a new heaven and a new earth in which shall dwell righteousness". I believe that the sting of death is sin, and a wasted life. Some day we will pass behind eternity's "iron curtain", if we are not saved by the blood of the crucified. If we are saved, then we will enjoy the peace of God. Where will you spend eternity? The answer depends on you. You still can decide. You have the privilege of deciding. Oh decide, to be with the "righteous" in everlasting remembrance.