

“THINGS ABOVE”

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes simple words can open the door to several great truths. The word “above” is just such a word. It is found in a majority of the books of the Bible, and the first time it is used it is contrasted with that which is “under” or “beneath.” Gen. 1:7 Sometimes the word “above” means “more than”, “beyond”, or “superior to”, but very **often** refers to that which pertains to the eternal heaven. To the Colossians, Paul wrote that they were “set their affections on things above.” Col. 3:2

There are 3 thoughts pertaining to the HEAVENLY that we shall explore at this time.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, OUR LORD IS FROM ABOVE.

- A. Jesus identifies His being “from above” as HEAVEN, in contrast with several things. John 3:31; 6:38; 8:23
- B. When Jesus came from above, He took upon Him the characteristics of people “below”, or of the earth. John 1:1,14
 - 1. Jesus became “man” that He might die and redeem those who would DO the Father’s will, that they in turn might ultimately live with Him **IN** the realm “above.” Phil. 2:6-8; Heb. 10:5-10
 - 2. Those who live “above” with Him, will be those who conform their lives to be **like** Jesus while HE was “beneath” and while they are beneath. Rom. 8:29-30; John 17:24; Matt. 7:21; Phil. 2:5

II. 2nd, ALL GOOD IS FROM ABOVE.

- A. Only **GOD** can give good things “from above.” Num. 23:19-20; Matt. 7:9-11; Jas. 1:17
- B. What **good** things does God give unto man?
 - 1. God gives us our **very existence** to live upon this earth to prepare for eternal life. Heb. 12:9
 - 2. God also gives us **physical blessings** for our enjoyment. Acts 14:17
 - 3. God also gives us His **will** (in the Bible), so as to know what to do and how to live in view of going to heaven above when this life is over. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3
 - 4. God also gives **salvation** from past sins and life in His Son. Eph.2:8-9; Rom. 6:23
 - 5. God also gives us the **hope** of eternal life while we are living “below.” Rom. 15:13; Tit. 1:2

III. 3Rd, we SEEK AND LOVE THINGS ABOVE.

- A. We are to SEEK things that are “above.” Col. 3:1
 - 1. This includes the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Matt. 6:33
 - a. “Righteousness” includes God’s **way** of making US “righteous”, or saving us from the guilt of sin. Rom. 1:16-17
 - b. Righteousness also includes the righteous **way** we are to live and to conduct our lives. Tit. 2:11-12
 - 2. We are also to SEEK every opportunity to speak FOR God, so as to win souls for Him.

B. Finally, we are to LOVE the things above. Col. 3:2; Matt. 6:19-21

1. If we are in love with the things beneath, we lose sight of those things which are above. 1 John 2:15
 - a. If I had rather get drunk than to remain sober, how can it be said that I love the things of God?
 - b. If I had rather play football or go fishing instead of going to worship God, how can it be said that I love God most of all?
 - c. Would you like to be doing something you love to do instead of doing what we should be doing to please God, **the very moment Jesus returns** to gather the faithful for eternal life?
2. The things of the world must never take priority to the things above.
 - a. If we do so for ONE minute, and DIE in that moment, our whole spiritual life has been wasted.
 - b. What a tragedy to spend MOST of our lives seeking heaven, and die in a moment or hour when we do not care about it.

CONCLUSION

- I. Our Savior will someday come **again** from above, to claim those who have citizenship there. Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 12:23; 1 Cor. 15:23-24
- II. If your life is not right with the Father above, won't you allow the Lord to make it right?

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