

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Heaven — Words of Comfort"

By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church, Norton

Benjamin Franklin has often been quoted as saying, "In this world, nothing is certain but death and taxes." Many have figured out ways to get out of paying taxes, legal or otherwise, but no one has yet been able to avoid the certainty of death. Sooner or later you are going to experience the pain that comes along with death. You will assuredly lose loved ones by swift tragic loss, the slow progression of disease or just the process of aging. You also will face your own death in one of these ways. But if you are a born again Christian, you need not fear death, for Christ took the sting of it on Himself when He died on the cross for your sins. And Jesus has words of comfort to all who will accept Him as Savior and Lord.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going... I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:1-4, 6)

The Bible teaches six powerful truths about heaven. They are: 1.) Heaven is a real

place; 2.) Heaven is a permanent place; 3.) Heaven is a personal place; 4.) Heaven is a holy place; 5.) Heaven is for those who are born again; and 6.) Heaven is a place of reunion.

When tragedy comes to any household due to a death in the family, it is best to, "Trust in God; and trust also in [Christ]." Think on that place where those

who, out of love for the Lord and having lived an obedient life unto Christ, will now have uninterrupted everlasting fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Christian's heart rejoices with King David who wrote, "Even though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod

and staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4) This powerful truth has brought comfort to many who lay on their death beds. To the born again Christian, death is not the house in which they are going to live but only the porch to the heavenly dwelling Christ has prepared for them. Death is not the final end of a Christian who has suffered long with some dreadful illness but only the passageway to the place where that child of God will be in the presence of Jesus. The apostle Paul had Holy Spirit revelation about the Christian's heavenly dwelling for he writes, "Now we know that if this earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands." (2 Corinthians 5:1) Paul also comforts us with these words, "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (2 Cor. 5:8)

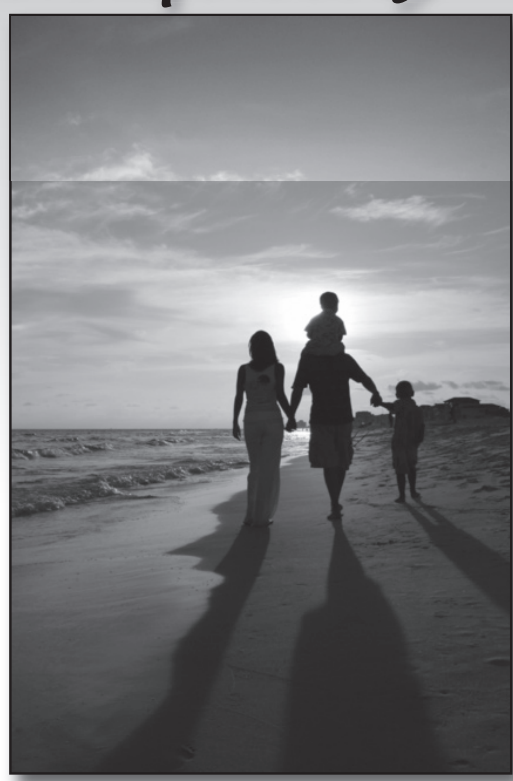
Over the next several weeks we are going to take a clear Biblical look into that glorious place that awaits all who have repented from sin and invited Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives to be both Savior and Lord. Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people where the born again will have everlasting fellowship with God. Are you prepared to go there?

Tranquility

Tranquility of the mind comes through the calm peace that is realized when one's life is so attuned to God's will that there is neither time nor space to allow frustration and confusion to invade the inner spirit of the soul.

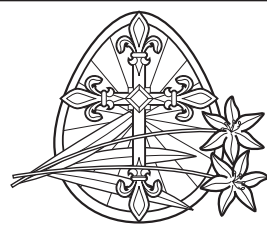
A tranquil mind is not an inactive one; it is never a closed door. It is an open door with an ever faithful assurance that God has abundant blessings in store. When we are at peace with God, we are capable of inviting tranquility to enter and live within us. We can seek His will quietly with the knowledge that He never fails us. "The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace" (Psalm 37:37).

Enter your house of worship this week and find serenity with God.



Sunday Ephesians 2.1-22	Monday Ephesians 3.1-21	Tuesday Ephesians 4.1-24	Wednesday Ephesians 4.25-5.20	Thursday Ephesians 5.21-6.24	Friday Philippians 1.1-30	Saturday Philippians 2.1-30
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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