

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### "Heaven, A Permanent Place"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

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)

In this text we read that Jesus twice referred to Heaven as being a place. The Holy Spirit later moved the apostle Peter to give us additional revelation about the place where the born again Christian will spend eternity. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you." (1 Peter 1:3-4) Peter gives us truth in this portion of Scripture that will take an eternity to fully grasp. One powerful truth is that we will be living face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father forever. There is no greater privilege given to man.

Peter reveals something else worth meditating on as we consider our inheritance of eternal life. It will "never

perish, spoil or fade." It will last forever. All that God gives us as we minister with Him throughout eternity will stay with us. There is no threat of losing anything or of losing the blessing of His presence. Once the child of God is received into heaven, their inheritance is sure and imperishable. It will not age, deteriorate or die; there will not be even a seed of corruption within it. This inheritance will

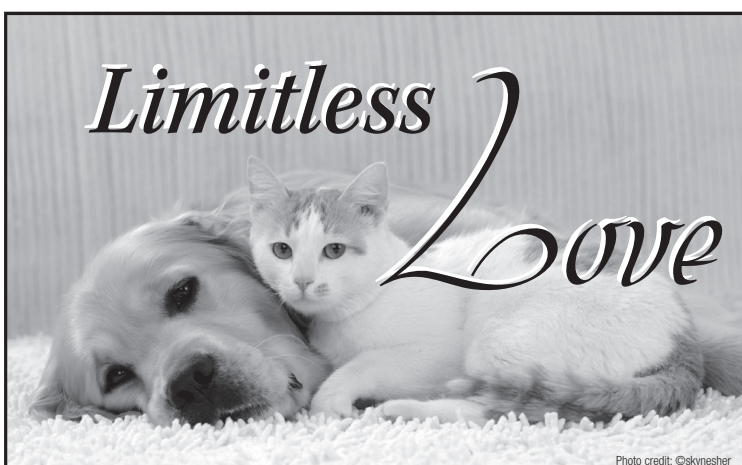
never spoil or be defiled. Our resurrected bodies will never be polluted or corrupted with sin again. Residents of heaven will not need to pray for those who are sick or dying. Pharmacies and hospitals will be nonexistent. Accidents will not happen. No tears will ever be shed again over a lost loved one or over lost possessions.

Note that Peter tells Christians that this is a "living hope." The

word "hope" here is used differently than the way we normally think of hope. For example, many students have graduated high school and gone on to college "hoping" to graduate in four years or so. This is only an expression of a strong desire to attain a certain goal. These people have no absolute certainty that they will be able to do so, for they may be forced to sit out a semester or year because of financial hindrances, health needs, or family setbacks. The hope Peter speaks of (Greek *elpis*) is a sure thing, a confident expectation in the God of hope, the Author and Source of hope. This hope comes only to Christians who have an obedient walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. Lip service without true faith will not open the door of your heart to the Holy Spirit's enabling to enjoy this type of hope. Only a heart yielded to the Lordship of Christ can enjoy all the blessings of this assured outcome. This is a revelation that comes only from the Lord as you choose to believe the Word of God and as you surrender to the illuminating power of the Holy Ghost.

Choose this day to repent of sin and turn fully to Christ. You will then have that sure hope that many have in Him. You can know that heaven is not only a real place but also a permanent place prepared for you.

Invite Christ into your heart and life today!



**Love is limitless! The more we give, the more we have to give.** If we love those whose lives we touch each day, they will know it and pass it on. 1 John 4.8 tells us, "God is love." This is the way He manifests Himself on Earth. With His help we can truly love one another as He commands us to. Give yourself a Valentine this year... worship God each week. You will learn to give love... *and you will receive love that knows no bounds.*

Weekly Scripture Reading						
John	John	John	Hosea	Hosea	Hosea	Hosea
3.22-36	13.1-20	13.21-35	1.1-2.1	2.2-23	11.1-11	14.1-9

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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