



“Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer...they were selling their possessions and belongings and were distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:42-47)

“The body is not made up of one part but many.” 1 Corinthians 12:14

I was very struck by an article by Regina Franklin, an American Bible teacher, who wrote about someone choosing a church because of its ‘amenities.’ She points out that Jesus’ last command on earth was to make disciples, which could ultimately entail risk and suffering in his name. The church is not a branch of the hotel and hospitality industry. It made me do a little thinking about what the church is about.

The verse from Corinthians is a key verse for me. If the body represents the church, it is made up of many different people with many different talents and opportunities. And with many different needs! Maybe some people are initially attracted to a specific church by what it appears to offer. Surely that is no bad thing. The verse from Acts indicates that the early church was based on meeting the needs of others. But once members of that church, a subsection

of the greater, universal ‘The Church’, increased, our view and our role might change. I do not wish to criticize Paul’s image of the body because he was trying to make a different point. A hand cannot become an ear but in a sports team one player may change position and perhaps that is what I am thinking of here. To give Paul credit (!) he was pointing out that we all have a part to play *for the benefit of other people*, so we are not part of a church just for what we get out of it. Of course if everyone does play his or her part, each one of us will benefit immensely.

The church – for all its faults – is vital to the service of God’s kingdom on earth. Whatever it might be able to offer us – and the support of the church is vital to all Christians – we must also play our role in building up the church and God’s kingdom.

Forgive me for using a long article so I can send something out this month! It is basically notes for a talk. Hopefully, something to think about.

WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT ETERNITY DETERMINES HOW YOU LIVE TODAY

As we talk on heaven, could never do it justice. (Read the verses)

1 Corinthians 2:9 NLT *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”*

John 14: 1-6 *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 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. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*

Revelation 1-5,7 *Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.*

4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" ...

7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

Three Misconceptions about Heaven (Craig Groeschel)

1. HEAVEN WILL BE BORING.

The Devil is a liar.

Lucifer was 1 of 3 Arch-Angels created by God, Michael, Gabriel, Lucifer.

Lucifer was angel of worship and wanted to be like God. (Book of Isaiah mentions this several times). God cast him down. Wants to convince us that hell's not real and also Heaven Is boring. Baby angels floating on a cloud. Heaven boring and God is boring. Heaven is the opposite of boredom. It's the absence of evil and the presence of God! Everything you enjoy comes from God. Ability see beauty, joy, laugh, love. What you love and enjoy on earth, you will love and enjoy in heaven. Except there will be, no sin, no evil no pain.

- We will know and understand one another, love and be loved.

1 Corinthians 13:12 *"Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."*

Speak to Adam, ask Moses, speak to Noah. Find out all the stories. Reunited with loved ones who knew Christ. Lost child. Close friend. Relative. No more betrayal, no more hurt. Perfect love.

- Heaven will be a place of unimaginable beauty.

Revelation 21:15-23 NLT *“The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (according to the human standard used by the angel). The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass. I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.”*

New colours, new sounds, new tastes, new sensations. Mountains, beaches, canyons, uncaged animals, lion will lie with the lamb. Most beautiful place on earth.

- In heaven, you will see Jesus face to face.

1 John 3:2 *“Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.”*

Moses in Exodus show me glory. You can’t handle my Glory. Holy Holies, priest tied a rope around the other priest’s foot in order to pull him out in case he

died. No man could see God and live. When we see Jesus, we will realize we never truly lived before moment.

- You will have new and perfect bodies. (1 Corinthians 15:35-55 read this at home)

Malachi4:1-2NLT*“The Lord of Heaven’s Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all. “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.”*

My mother when she was sick. Health challenges?

Isaiah35:5-8NLT*“And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland. The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land. Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish where desert jackals once lived. And a great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil-minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God’s ways; fools will never walk there.”*

- Heaven is the absence of everything bad, painful, and evil. It’s the presence of everything good, holy and glorious. (Isaiah 65:21-22, Revelation 21:24).

Revelation21:24-27NLT*“The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone*

who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

Whatever job you are most passionate about that is what you will be doing in Heaven. If it is singing, building, creating. Rule and reign with Christ. Whatever you can imagine, heaven is better. No more death, pain, sorrow, sickness!!!! No more fear, stress, anxiety, sleepless nights. No more betrayal, abuse, heartache, divorce, disease, violence, injustice, no more racism. Boring? Heaven is the opposite of boredom. It's the absence of evil and the presence of God!

2. THIS WORLD IS YOUR HOME (This is a lie)

Philippians 3:19-20 NLT "They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior."

Finish school, go to varsity, we think there is plenty of time. We get married! Build a house.

Don't know Christ. Their mind is set on earthly things. Verse 20, but our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. Your life is a mist—Appears and is gone.

2 Corinthians 4:18 For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

3. MOST PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HEAVEN ANYWAY (Misconception)

Apparently 72% Americans believe in heaven— where people who have led good lives are eternally rewarded. Good people don't go to heaven, forgiven people do. Most think Jesus is found on the wide path. I have lied, stolen, lusted. No excuse to keep on sinning.

Romans 3:23-25 *23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin.*

People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. Relieve Fear and Increase Urgency.

1 Corinthians 15:55, 57-58 *55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*

57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Warren King

Statements supposedly written by school children :

In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day but a ball of fire during the night

The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles

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