

# SERMON NOTES - Raised With Christ 6 - Heaven

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

## INTRODUCTION

We have been following the picture that Paul uses in Eph 1:15-2:6 to help us understand the power of God that is at work in us as believers. He gives a picture to help us understand this: Just as Jesus died, was buried, rose and ascended to glory in Heaven...we also were dead, buried with Him, raised with Him, and are ascended and seated with Him right now in heaven - *Eph 2:6 - "6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"*

What does it actually mean for us that we are seated in Heaven with Him right now? And HOW is this possible? There are 3 things we as humans need help to understand in this regard:

**THE TIME** - WHEN - has it already happened? - understanding ETERNITY is the key.

**THE PLACE** - WHERE - Is it here and all around, is it another place, or is it within?- We must understand the SPIRIT vs the physical realm.

**THE ACCESS** - HOW do I get it & experience it daily? - We must understand FAITH vs our own works & our own feelings and senses.

## 1. JESUS' WORDS, MISSION AND COMMISSION

*Luk 17:20-21* — "Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 "nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.""

*Mat 4:17* - "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

*Mat 10:7-8* "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

## 2. SPIRIT vs FLESH

*Jhn 3:3, 5-6, 13* - "3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ... 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ... 13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man **who is in heaven.**"

## 3. ETERNITY

*Ecc 3:11* — "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."

## 4. WE ARE DESCRIBED AS BEING IN HEAVEN IN 2 Cor 5

*2Co 5:2-3, 5-8, 16-17* - "2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ... 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. ... 16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**"

*Rev 21:1, 5* - "Now I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had **passed away**... 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make **all things new.**"

## 5. WE ARE IN THE NEW JERUSALEM NOW

*Heb 12:18-24* - "18 For you have not come to the mountain that **may be touched** and that burned with fire, and to **blackness and darkness and tempest**, 19 and the **sound of a trumpet and the voice of words**, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. 20 (For they **could not endure what was commanded**: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." 21 And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am **exceedingly afraid and trembling**.")

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the **city of the living God**, the **heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of **angels**, 23 to the general **assembly and church** of the firstborn who are **registered in heaven**, to **God** the Judge of all, to the **spirits** of just men **made perfect**, 24 to **Jesus** the Mediator of the **new covenant**, and to the **blood** of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."

## 6. ROM 8 SAYS WE ARE ALREADY GLORIFIED

*Rom 8:28-32, 35, 37* - "28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, **these He also glorified**. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ... 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

## 7. OTHER VERSES THAT SAY WE ARE ALREADY THERE

*1Co 15:48-50* - "48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear (MT. "let us also bear") the image of the heavenly Man. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."

*Eph 2:6* - "and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"

*Eph 1:3* - "3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"

*1Co 6:17* - "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him."

*Phl 3:20* - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"

*Col 3:1-4* - "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

## 8. SOME ASPECTS OF THIS PRACTICALLY FOR US - We have...

- **ACCESS** - *Eph 3:12* - "12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him."
- **INTIMACY** - *Eph 1:6* - "6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."

- **IDENTITY / CITIZENSHIP**- saved and safe and loved righteous clean. Phl 3:20 - "20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"
- **PURITY** - 2Co 5:21 - "21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
- **KNOWLEDGE** - 1Jo 2:20 - "20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things." (also 1 Cor 2:16)
- **ALL THINGS** - 1Co 3:21 - "21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:"
- **POWER & AUTHORITY** - Jhn 16:23 - "23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."
- **SECURITY** - We are safe.
- **A MISSION IN THIS WORLD** - to bring this heaven reality to earth

**9. HOW DO I GET THIS?** - I must simply believe - I cannot earn it.

Eph 1:16-19 - "[I] do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the **eyes of your understanding** being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward **us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power..."

**10. OUR MISSION** - To bring Heaven to Earth in our own lives and the world around us.

Mat 6:10 - "Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven."

Other Verses used in this talk:

Eph 3:14, 15 - The whole family of God is in heaven and on earth at the same time right now.

Rev 3:21 - we sit on His throne.

Rom 8:5, 6 - we must set our minds on the Spirit vs the flesh

Lk 23:43 - "today you will be with me in paradise"

Jn 4:24, 1 Tim 1:17 - God is Spirit and He is invisible.

Ex 3:14 - God is "I AM" - eternal present tense.

1 Jn 4:17 - As He is, so are we in this world.

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.