

Real Places Real People!



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Really thinking about a real place and real people residing there permanently, has us being a little more serious about our walk of faith in Christ and our trust on the living God of the Bible. We must know the truth about Heaven and Hell—both are *real* places with *real* people residing there—forever!

Jesus told a story about two men who had passed away—Luke 16:19-21—one man was wealthy, had fine clothes, and dined daily on luxury foods; the other man was poor and had to beg for his meals—to the point he begged for the crumbs from the rich man’s table.

The story begins: Luke 16:22 “*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*”

This is a true story about two men who lived on earth—just as we live on earth—and upon their passing, they found themselves in eternity—one in a place of torment with the unrepentant; and the other in a place of comfort with faithful Abraham—Real Places Real People!

There are only two permanent places for departed souls. There is the *broad* and *popular* way that leads to destruction and the narrow and *unpopular* way that leads to Eternal Life. There are the *tares* cast into the fire to be burned, and there

is the *wheat* gathered into barns to be saved. There is the *unfaithful* servant who is cast into outer darkness, and the *faithful* servant who enters the presence of the Lord.

Heaven is the future dwelling place of God’s true people—a place where everything *present* would make a person happy and contented—and a place that will be *absent* of everything that would make a person unhappy and discontented. The actual location of Heaven may not be known, but we *do* know that it is a perfect environment—like the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve.

Heaven is a *real place* with *real people* living there—as real as the cities of London, Chicago, Seattle, and Philadelphia. Heaven is *not*, as some erroneously think, a *blissful state of being*, but not a real place. Heaven is most *definitely* a *real place* and a *prepared place* for prepared people.

Many scoff at Heaven being a *real place*; or they think that the only Heaven humans ever experience would be ideal conditions on earth. Jesus sets the record straight when He says to His disciples: John 14:2 “*In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*” That is the truth—Heaven is a *real place* with *real people*.

It is not only an *actual place*, but it is a *perfect place* with a *perfect environment*—nothing is allowed in to mar its beauty and perfection. Revelation 21:27 “*Nothing impure [anything that defiles] will ever [by no means] enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful [causes an abomination or maketh a lie; [or is] deceitful.*”

Nothing is allowed to enter Heaven that would cause sorrow, trouble, or worry of any type—there are no tears to shed and no good-byes to say. There is nothing to mar the splendor and perfection of that glorious city. There absolutely is a Heaven—a place that Isaac and Jacob looked forward to as Hebrews 11:9 “*Heirs with [Abraham] of*

the same promise.” They were waiting 10 “*For the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*”

The lyrics of the hymn remind us of the promise every believer has who trusts on the atoning sacrifice of Christ—*There’s a land that is fairer than day; And by faith we can see it afar; For the Father waits over the way, To prepare us a dwelling place there.*

Heaven is a *real place* with *real people* living there forever with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. Revelation 21:2 “*I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*”

Although we look forward to a crown; a white robe; walls of jasper; and streets of gold, the greatest feature of Heaven is the eternal fellowship with God and His Son Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 “*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

Heaven will be a true *haven of rest* for the people of God; rest for those who held steadfast in faith in trusting God while they lived on earth. Hebrews 4:9 “*There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.*” The apostle John assures us that those who pass away in the faith [who “*die in the Lord*”] Revelation 14:13 “*May rest from their labours; and their works [good deeds] do follow them.*”

Heaven is a place of perfect rest from all troubles on earth. Revelation 21:4 “*And God shall*

wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” It is difficult to comprehend such a place where there is no suffering, pain, or anguish of any kind—but it is a *real place for real people*.

On the other hand—far too many make light of Hell as being an actual place, and they think that the Lake of Fire is just a basis for jokes—picturing the devil in a red suit with horns and a pitchfork. Story after story is told about having to shovel coal or making fun at the thought of such a place even existing. The truth is that such a place *does* exist, and many will go there—and they *won't* be laughing, but Matthew 22:13 “Weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Life is not a joke on *this side* of the grave—and it is certainly *not* a joke on the *other side* either.

The only One who can save us from that horrible fate, said—Matthew 10:28 “Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” That is the truth from Jesus—we must *read* and *heed* and be *ready* in a moment—ready to change attitudes or anything else outside the will of God.

The most fearful accounts of Hell come from Jesus Himself. *Hell* is a word used twenty-four times in the New Testament—and twenty-two of those times was used by Jesus. There is much about the place we do *not* know, but some things we *do* know for sure—Hell is a *real place!* The rich man Luke 16 wanted someone to warn his brothers—Luke 16:28 “Lest they also come into this place of torment.”

It is only reasonable and right to hold on to our *hope* of Heaven as the home of the faithful in Christ; and just as reasonable and right to believe in the reality of Hell as the fate of the unfaithful

without Christ. Make no mistake—Hell is an actual place of the most dreadful suffering. Revelation 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.”

Jude calls it Jude 1:13 “The blackness of darkness for ever;” Jesus says Matthew 8:12 it is a place where “There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Simon Peter calls it 2 Peter 2:4 “Chains of darkness.” In Hell the sun never *shines*; the day never *arrives*, and the suffering never *ends*.

Jesus warned Matthew 5:22 “That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.” Hell is a *real place of real torture* that is beyond any suffering on earth.

The disciples asked Jesus to explain Matthew 13:36 “The parable of the tares of the field,” so He said Matthew 13:37 “He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.”

The Word of God and the teaching of Jesus would be the *seed*. We live in a world surrounded by unbelievers, and the devil is constantly trying to destroy our faith through some wicked means or through an agent of his. As the end of the world comes ever closer, when the reaping will begin—we have to be alert and ready by *repenting* of sins; *forsaking* wrong attitudes; and being *sure* we are trusting every day on the Blood of Jesus. We must be *wheat* in the eyes of the Master.

The time is approaching when Jesus will return to harvest those who are faithfully trusting

Him for every aspect of life. Matthew 13:40 “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The invitation still *stands* because God is still *loving* and *merciful* and *patient*. He is 2 Peter 3:9 “Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” The issue is repenting, forsaking sins, getting rid of resentment, and walking every day by faith in the Blood of Jesus—that is *our* decision and calling—we must heed the call!

Hebrews 10:26 “If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.”

The invitation still *stands*, but many still make *excuses*—unreasonable excuses for not giving their life to God; or why they are not asking for His Holy Spirit to inspire faith; or some *other* excuse why they are not trusting on the shed Blood of Christ.

Heaven is a *real place*, but only *real believers* in Christ ever prove that!



www.fcqchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcqchurch.org

#3014 0731 22A