

Teaching by Jack Hartman

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ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL LIVE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY IN HEAVEN?

We believe that the teaching for this month's newsletter is *so important* that we are not going to merely put it on our web site as we do with all of my regular monthly teachings. We will send a copy of this month's teaching to every person who is on our email mailing list. We pray that *you* will carefully read the following scriptural information that is *vitaly important* to every person in the world. (All of the following Scripture references are from *The Amplified Bible*.)

HEAVEN IS SO BEAUTIFUL THAT NO PERSON ON EARTH CAN COMPREHEND ITS BEAUTY. "...what eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him..." (I Corinthians 2:9)

Nothing that you can see or hear on earth can remotely compare with the glory of heaven. God has created a beautiful eternal home for each of His children that is far beyond the limitations of our human understanding.

NONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT ANY PERSON FACES ON EARTH WILL EXIST IN HEAVEN. "God promises to wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish (sorrow and mourning) nor grief nor pain any more, for the old conditions and the former order of things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

There are no sad people in heaven. Every person in heaven is filled with joy. God will take away every tear from the eyes of every person in heaven. No one in heaven dies. No one in heaven suffers from pain. Every person in heaven will live a glorious problem-free and pain-free life throughout eternity.

EVERYTHING IN HEAVEN IS PURE AND CLEAN. "There shall no longer exist there anything that is accursed (detestable, foul, offensive, impure, hateful, or horrible)..." (Revelation 22:3)

The atmosphere that we live in here on earth has become increasingly evil and negative in recent years. Anything that is negative or evil during your life on earth will *not* go with you to heaven. Every person who arrives in heaven will be in absolute awe of the supernatural purity that pervades heaven.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE HEAVENLY CITY OF NEW JERUSALEM? New Jerusalem, the capitol city of heaven, is described as "...the city which has fixed and firm foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God." (Hebrews 11:10)

New Jerusalem is very different from any city on earth because every city in the world was designed and built by human beings. New Jerusalem was designed and built by God.

THE STREETS IN HEAVEN ARE MADE OF PURE GOLD. When the Holy Spirit conveyed the apostle John to heaven, John gave a specific description of what he saw. He said, "...the main street (the Broadway) of the city was of gold as pure and translucent as glass." (Revelation 22:21)

The words "pure and translucent" in this verse are important. When something is pure, it is completely free from anything that could contaminate it. The word "translucent" means that light is able to shine through the golden streets of heaven.

This verse speaks of the main street of New Jerusalem. Although the Bible does not say so specifically, I believe that all streets throughout heaven have a foundation of pure and translucent gold.

THE HEAVENLY CITY OF NEW JERUSALEM IS ILLUMINATED BY THE GLORY OF GOD. "...the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the splendor and radiance (glory) of God illuminate it, and the Lamb is its lamp." (Revelation 21:23)

There is no darkness in heaven. Heaven is continually illuminated by the glory of God and by Jesus Christ.

IF JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR SAVIOR, HE WILL PREPARE A BEAUTIFUL HOME FOR YOU IN HEAVEN. Jesus said, "In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)

These words that Jesus spoke to His disciples many years ago also are His words to you today. Jesus assures you that He will "prepare a place for you." He will personally supervise the preparation of *your* eternal home in heaven. If you are absolutely certain that you will live throughout eternity in heaven, you can rejoice because you will know that you have a beautiful home awaiting you. Your heavenly home will be more magnificent than you can even begin to comprehend with the limitations of human understanding.

JESUS CHRIST PAID THE FULL PRICE FOR YOU TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN HEAVEN. "...God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life." (John 3:16)

God loves every person on earth so much that he sent his beloved only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth as a human being to pay the full price for every sin that every person has ever committed. Anyone who truly believes in this glorious truth will live throughout eternity in heaven. "...Christ [the Messiah Himself] died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous (the Just for the unjust, the Innocent for the guilty), that He might bring us to God..." (I Peter 3:18)

This verse says that "the Righteous" (Jesus Christ) died for the sins of every person. Jesus paid this price to "bring *you* to God."

JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY *BECAME SIN* TO PAY THE PRICE FOR ALL OF YOUR SINS. "For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness]." (II Corinthians 5:21)

Even though Jesus lived a perfect life without ever sinning, He actually *became sin*. Jesus took upon Himself the sins of every person in the world. Jesus made it possible for *every* sinner to live throughout eternity in the glory of heaven.

JESUS CHRIST TOOK AWAY THE POWER OF DEATH. The Bible speaks of "...our Savior Christ Jesus, Who annulled death and made it of no effect..." (II Timothy 1:10)

When something is annulled, it is cancelled, done away with and invalidated. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, the incredible victory that He won has done away with the power of death in your life. "...Death is swallowed up (utterly vanquished forever) in and unto victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:54-55)

Death was "swallowed up" when Jesus Christ died a horrible death by crucifixion and then was raised from the dead. Death will not have any sting in your life if Jesus Christ is your Savior. The amplification in this verse says that death *has* been "utterly vanquished forever" because of the tremendous victory that Jesus Christ won for you.

The word "haunting" that is used in the final amplification in this verse refers to Satan and his demons. This word is used in the same context as the description of a haunted house. When a house is haunted, it supposedly is filled with ghosts. *Do not* allow Satan's demons to put thoughts into your mind to haunt you with the fear of death. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you have been "completely set free" from the fear of death.

EVERY PERSON MUST REPENT OF HIS OR HER SINS. Jesus said, "...unless you repent (change your mind for the better and heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), you will all likewise perish and be lost eternally." (Luke 13:5)

Only people who have truly repented of all of their sins will live eternity in the glory of heaven. People who do not receive Jesus Christ as their Savior will live eternally in hell. Death is *not* the end. *Every* person *will* live throughout eternity either in the glory of heaven or in the horror of hell. The Bible describes the inhabitants of hell as people "...for whom the gloom of eternal darkness has been reserved forever." (Jude 13)

You have seen that heaven is continually illuminated by the glory of God. Hell is gloomy “eternal darkness.” People who live in the darkness of hell will suffer from an overwhelming sense of hopelessness because they will be separated eternally from God.

EVERY PERSON IN HELL WILL WEEP AND WAIL AND GRIND HIS OR HER TEETH. God’s angels will take every person who has not received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and place each of these people in the horrible place that was prepared for Satan and his demons (see Matthew 25:41). The Bible says that angels will “...cast them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and wailing and grinding of teeth.” (Matthew 13:42)

When we studied Revelation 21:4, we discussed the truth that every person in heaven is filled with joy. Every person in hell is miserable. Can you imagine living throughout eternity in a place where the inhabitants “weep, wail and grind their teeth” in anguish? This is exactly what will happen to every person who rejects the supreme sacrifice that Jesus Christ made to pay the full price for the sins of every person.

EVERY PERSON WHO LIVES IN HELL WILL BE TORMENTED THROUGHOUT ETERNITY . “...the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no respite (no pause, no intermission, no rest, no peace) day or night...” (Revelation 14:11)

Hell is a horrible place. The inhabitants of hell will not receive any relief from their eternal suffering.

So far in this teaching we have studied many scriptural truths pertaining to heaven and hell and the price that Jesus Christ paid so that every person can live eternally in heaven. We will devote the remainder of this teaching to studying scriptural truths about exactly what is required for any person to live eternally in heaven.

NO HUMAN BEING WILL GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE HE OR SHE HAS LIVED A GOOD LIFE. Some people believe that, if they live a good life, they will go to heaven. With the exception of Jesus Christ, *no other person* has ever lived a life that is good enough to cause that person to live eternally in heaven. “...None is righteous, just and truthful and upright and conscientious, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10)

This verse says that *no one* is righteous *before God*. No matter how good you may think your life has been, your life cannot be good enough to get you to heaven. The Bible says, "...all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives." (Romans 3:23)

YOU CAN ONLY LIVE ETERNALLY IN HEAVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN. Jesus said, "...I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God." (I John 3:3)

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BE BORN AGAIN? The following passage of Scripture tells you *exactly* and *specifically* what is required for any person to live eternally in heaven. "...if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

Please note the words "in your heart believe" in Romans 10:9. Some people think in their *minds* that Jesus Christ paid the price for all of their sins. The Bible says that you must do more than just think in your mind that Jesus paid the price for all of your sins. You must *believe in your heart* that God truly did raise His Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead three days after He was crucified, you will be saved *if* you meet the second qualification that is outlined in Romans 10:10. In addition to believing this great truth in your heart, you also must *open your mouth* and confess that you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ has paid the full price to forgive all of your sins. If you believe this great truth in your heart and you open your mouth and say that you believe this great truth, *you will be saved and you will live throughout eternity in the glory of heaven.*

Please meditate carefully on Romans 10:9-10. *Your eternal destiny depends upon* believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth that Jesus Christ paid the price for all of your sins.

If you truly want to live throughout eternity in the glory of heaven, open your mouth and say the following. "God, I admit that I am a sinner. There is no way that I can expect to live eternally in heaven based upon the sinful life I have lived. I am genuinely sorry for my sins. I repent of these sins. I ask You to forgive me."

I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is Your Son, that He was crucified to pay the price for my sins, that you raised Him from the dead and that He is alive today. I trust completely in Jesus Christ for my eternal salvation. Thank you, Father. I now am certain that I will live throughout eternity in heaven because of the tremendous price that Your Son paid for me."