



# Northside Proclaimer

*Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord*

1 Thessalonians 1:8

**Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!**

**August 16, 2015**

## **What's in Heaven for Me?**

*Bryan Garlock*

The prevailing attitude of the day is: "What's in it for me?" This form of selfishness, which is a mindset among many, contradicts numerous biblical principles such as looking to the interest of others, loving your neighbor as yourself, etc., and is the exact opposite of having the "mind of Christ" as described by Paul in Philippians 2. Thus this self-centeredness has caused men to incrementally go from bad to worse. On the other hand, the question in the above title is essential for the saint to ask. This inquiry is not a selfish matter, but is equivalent to questions asked when an honest investigation into the validity of the Scriptures is underway. What we mean is, it is right for an individual to ask: "Why should I trust the Bible?" and "Why should I believe and follow God?" etc. The Scriptures lay open for all to search and investigate and when one is honest with the text they will respond accordingly to its demands. The same is true for the Christian. God has promised us abundant joy and blessings in Christ. He has also promised us an eternal home with Him one day. Knowing all things in store for the saint is essential to our growth. With such information comes hope, faithfulness, love, obedience, motivation, etc. Thus we must ask: "What's in heaven for me?"

First, the Bible teaches that our treasure is in heaven. Speaking to the rich young ruler who claimed to keep all the commands of God, Jesus said, "...If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Matt. 19:21). Paul gave similar instructions to the rich in 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Giving to the poor is not necessarily the only thing we must do to lay our treasure up in heaven. Setting our minds on things above is one of the many ways we can be assured that our hearts are right and our treasure is secured in heaven (Col. 3:1-2), "where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matt. 6:19-21).

Second, Paul speaks to our hope, which is in heaven. Interestingly, the Colossians' obedience was based on their future hope. Paul penned, "...since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven..." (Col. 1:4-5). Hope will drive a man to do great things in life.

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## Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements.
- If you'd like to volunteer to go door knocking and ask for Bible studies see Bryan.
- If you'd like to volunteer to help with the fair see Bryan.
- Kid's drill class today at 4:00 PM.

### Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Aug 16 Jer 32-34

Aug 17 Jer 35-37

Aug 18 Jer 38-40, Ps 74, 79

Aug 19 2 Kgs 24-25, 2 Chr 36

Aug 20 Hab 1-3

Aug 21 Jer 41-45

Aug 22 Jer 46-48

Third, Peter declared words about our inheritance, which is in heaven. "According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you..." (1 Peter 1.4). It is God who has "...qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light" because "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1.12-14 NKJV). There is no greater blessing that a person will receive in their lifetime than to hear the words, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25.34).

Fourth, Paul taught that our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3.20). Since the apostles spoke to our temporary status while on earth (see 1 John 2.17; 1 Peter 2.11), and since we inherit the kingdom, it is obvious that our citizenship is truly there.

Fifth, we have an award for us in Heaven. Jesus taught, "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matt. 5.12-13). The Hebrew writer said, "...He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11.6). Since God rewards our endurance in this world, let us see that no man cheats us of our reward (Col. 2.18) and that we do not throw away our confidence "which has a great reward" (Heb. 10.35).

Sixth, the Scriptures are replete with passages speaking to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which are in Heaven. The apostles use different terms to describe the Godhead such as our Master in heaven (Eph. 6.9; Col. 4.1) and our High Priest in heaven (Heb. 8.1), etc. We will dwell with them forevermore!

Finally, we are enrolled, or registered, in heaven (Heb. 12.23). For those of us who have been added to the church of Christ (Acts 2.41, 47; 1 Cor. 12.13), we are registered in heaven. Therefore it can be said that we are added, enrolled, and granted citizenship. The three cannot be separated.

The saint has much to look forward to. Are you prepared for heaven? BG