

**The
Reality
Of
Heaven**

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Heaven is a concept where many Christians have a very hard time trying to come to terms with despite being saved by grace through faith in Christ. Though Christians have been promised that heaven is their eventual home, not many have the slightest idea what heaven is like and how and why they are going there. What is foremost in the minds of Christians is that they have eternal life in Christ and this equates living with Christ in heaven someday. This is probably what heaven is all about for many Christians. Unfortunately while living on earth, Christians do not seem to be very interested about heaven and things about heaven. They may hear a little about the pearly white gates they sing in hymns but the full impact and implication about heaven being a present reality and a real place that Christians are now residing are something beyond the comprehension of most Christians. This book seeks to present to Christians that heaven is indeed a present reality and a future full manifestation of the glory that will be revealed.

Talking about heaven and heavenly places, the Old Testament saints were not given much of any such promises. None of them was told that there were many mansions waiting for them in heaven. None of them was told that their eventual homes were in heaven though they knew there would be a resurrection and a judgment to come. Jacob saw angels ascending and descending from heaven in a dream but there was no mention that he was going to go to heaven. The saints in the Old Testament were promised peace, blessings and prosperity if they obeyed God and kept His commandments. They were told how to live on earth to please God and longevity, peace and blessings would follow them all their lives and they would leave this world in a ripe old age. That was probably what most of them knew as revelation from the Holy Scriptures unfold.

In the very beginning, Adam and Even were living on earth in the Garden of Eden where they could live forever if only they had obeyed God. They were living there happily until sin came into the world. They would not have died had they not eaten of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They were living in a state of bliss where God could meet with them to fellowship face to face any time of the day. There were no animosity between God and men and life on earth was indeed as the days of heaven upon the earth. So their “heaven” was actually the Garden of Eden on earth. The main theme was to stay alive and to have eternal life, that in itself would be “heaven”. However, what heaven would it be when men though could live forever are living under the curse of sin where sins, sickness and sorrows plagued them forever?

Going to heaven or living in heaven is not the central theme in the Old Testament. Notwithstanding, there were exceptions though. Enoch walked with God all the way into God’s throne room for God took him and he did not die. He disappeared from planet Earth and is residing in heaven right now. God also sent His chauffeur to pick Elijah up to heaven on a chariot of fire. So Elijah also did not experience death and he went straight into heaven unlike the rest of the fallen sons of men. However, for us Christians, bought by the precious blood of Christ, we are given much more great and precious promises than the saints of old where God shows the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:5-7)

The word “heavenly” mentioned here is not found in the Old Testament. The Old Testament saints had a hard time understanding heavenly things, which is quite understandable. None of them was told to consider heaven as their eventual home to begin with. Moreover, they did not have the entire Holy Bible that we have where we are already told what happened in the very beginning and how it is going to end. We know the end from the beginning as revealed to us through the scriptures. So most of the Old Testament saints’ understanding of heaven is rather vague, sketchy, elementary and uncertain. They were earth bound and being promised blessings on earth if they kept God’s commandments and heaven was not something they talked about among themselves as though they would eventually reside in heaven.

Even Christ had a hard time trying to teach and convince the Jews concerning heavenly things. The Lord told Nicodemus: **If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? (John 3:12)** The failure to grasp the reality and certainty of heaven was not surprising. The Old Testament saints were conditioned to earthly observances in religious rituals ordained of God to keep them under the law in order to bring them to Christ and as such, they might miss the very purpose for which these laws were given. Their sights were set on earthly rites thinking that this was all that was to please God. So when a New Era began to dawn upon them to look heavenward, they missed the mark altogether. The subject of heaven was something so extraordinary that they could not easily come to terms with the new reality that would follow when Christ came to take away the sins of the world. The doing away with the outward observances of religious rituals threw them into great uncertainty. Heaven was still a paradox to them and this new life in Christ forced them to get out of their comfort zone on being earthly minded on the poor and beggarly elements of religious observances that had kept them at peace for so long. Moving out of the comfort zone of religious rituals was not something easy to overcome. Even the early Jewish Christians continued to attend to the temple and observing their traditions after they had believed in Christ.

Paul likewise had trouble convincing his hearers during an open court session with dignitaries when giving his testimony of salvation and work for Christ: **Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: (Acts 26:19)** As such, convincing sinners about heaven is a very difficult thing to do. Try talking to some sinners, you will find they prefer to go hell with their friends where at least they could play mahjong together. That is what they think hell is like as the underworld where the living can burn them some earthly comfort to help them along like a luxurious car, big houses and nowadays even branded latest handphones and computers and game modules. A couple of years ago, a twelve year old boy committed suicide because his father refused to buy him a handphone. But he did leave behind a note to request for one to be sent to him to the underworld though. This is what happens when sinners seek a god after their own imagination and they will surely get it wrong.

Going to heaven is probably the furthest thing on the mind of a sinner. But for us saved sinners, how often do we really think about heaven? Especially when we are already told to set our affections on things that are above rather than the things on the earth. Things that are in heaven are real and the Lord wants us to set our heart and mind on our future eternal destiny and not so much on our current temporal earthly dwelling. That does not mean we ignore the things that are needful on earth though. But as Christians, we must be reminded that we are really heavenward bound creatures in Christ as we are told: **As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Corinthians 15:48&49)**

Because we are heavenward bound, we are told that God has reserved a special blessing for us: **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:3 & 20)** This blessing is given to us primarily because God has raised up Christ who went back to heaven and He did promise His disciples that “where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3). Christ desires that Christians will be with Him and Christ is now physically residing in the heavenly places at God’s own right hand. So the heavenly places mentioned are literal and real and not some devotional kind of teachings. The subject on heavenly places is not philosophical or academic. This is not a subject for

human speculation because scriptures reveal the true nature of such a place. The concept of heaven is not something psychological that gives men hope and a good feeling while living on earth in peace and prosperity. Heaven is not a panacea to offer hope for men to endure adversity and crisis here on earth. It is a real realm where real people and entities exist. If these heavenly places are not real and literal, our resurrection and home in heaven could be a scam too. Then the Lord who told His disciples concerning the many mansions in His Father's house would be the greatest fraud in the realm of religions.

Paul also wrote about the structure of these heavenly places that he wanted us to know: **To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, (Ephesians 3:10)** Paul wanted the Church to know about the principalities and powers in heavenly places. So as Christians, have we been negligent? How much do we really know about principalities and powers in heavenly places? Why such a topic is seldom addressed in Christian meeting? But there are principalities and powers in heavenly places according to scriptures. There is a divine structure in heavenly places because we are told earlier that the heavenly places are real and true and Christ is already in heaven right now. If heavenly places exist, of course we can expect some form of structure and government. Heaven is not some nebulous concept subject to multiple interpretations for the human race to feel good about when they serve humanity with distinctions. There are orders in heaven and there are creatures up there under the direct divine jurisdiction of the Most High.

Paul further desires the Church to know the physical dimensions of God's creation: **May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. (Ephesians 3:18&19)** The physical dimensions mentioned are real and literal as well. Many Christians mistake the real and literal dimensions of heaven and God's creation to refer to the love of Christ. But to know the love of Christ and to comprehend the breadth and length and depth and height are two distinct separate topics mentioned in two different verses and they are not supposed to be confused together. Of course by the pen of human race to fully write and describe the love of Christ, men would still utterly fail to adequately explain what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for sinners. However, the physical dimension of God's creation is still a subject

where the saints would do well to comprehend for our own edification. Heaven and heavenly places are real so the dimensions mentioned here are real as well.

Going to heaven and residing in heaven is not floating in the air like in a hot air balloon drifting about with no specific purpose other than sightseeing. Going to heaven is not some kind of aimless drifting in space disguised as heavenly bliss. Going to heaven is not to become a space tourist without having to pay a single cent for the trip because Christ has made the payment for us. Heavenly places are the domain for the saved sinners in Christ and there are things to do in heaven.

Lost people do not have the slightest idea what heaven is like and heaven is more like a fairy tale kind of story they heard or read about during childhood. That is why they are not interested in going to heaven according to the Bible through Christ. But fallen men are still very fascinated about heaven and they send space vehicles into heaven to explore the possibility of one day living up there. Now you know why fallen men prefer good works than salvation by God's free grace through Christ! They want to make it up there into heaven by their own good work without the help of God. They are fatally optimistic about such prospects. They think they have enough experience and know-how to help them make it up there. The greatest frontier in science is within their grasp to equip them to live in heaven. In fact, there is already a space station orbiting the earth where fifteen nations are involved in carrying out experiment in space. Space shuttles also regularly dock at this space station to replenish supplies to astronauts residing there. Maybe it is really a good idea to migrate to heaven when global warming has wiped out large proportion of the land mass on earth and men have no more place to live here. What is there so surprising about fallen men dreaming about building a home in heaven without the help of God when in the past they tried to build a tower to reach heaven to avoid being drowned in another global flood? Fallen men will always try their utmost to make it without the help of God on any matter.

Paul told Timothy that there is this domain called the heavenly kingdom. **And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4:18)** So the heaven we are going to is actually a kingdom. This kingdom comprises of all the principalities and powers in heaven. The heavenly places are part of the domain of this heavenly kingdom. So heaven is not just some empty space in the sky. Heaven is not just the constellations of planets and stars. It is a kingdom where a King reigns supreme over all creatures great and small up there beyond the reach of the eyes of sinful men.

Paul also wrote about such an invitation to the heavenly kingdom as a heavenly calling: **Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (Hebrews 3:1)** So when we read about the high calling of God, it is literally a high calling that is so high that will call us up to sit in heavenly places on high with the Most High. What a privilege! What a blessing! What joy divine and full of glory! When will we ever be grateful and appreciative of the kindness that our God show to us in Christ! Are we really partakers of this heavenly calling or are we simply audience watching the participants of this heavenly calling living for Christ and eventually glorifying Christ? These saved people sitting in heavenly places with Christ are not audience watching the world go by but are active participants for a cause that hopefully they will bring more sinners on board to sit with them in those heavenly places that will never run out of seats.

Heaven is so great and vast and there will always be space for more seats in heavenly places. There will never be a stampede in heaven like the Air Show held here last week. There will always be seats up there to whosoever will come to Christ. When you reach there and sit on that seat, you will notice it has been reserved for you since eternity past, chosen in Christ, before the foundation of the world. Won't this make you want to shout and thank God for His goodness towards a lost, hopeless, good for nothing sinners like us? Those who are sitting up there in heavenly places can also be reckoned as those having tasted the heavenly gifts who will try to mortify the deeds of the flesh having been partakers of the Holy Ghost: **For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, (Hebrews 6:4)** Only partakers of the Holy Ghost have the right to reside up there in heaven in this heavenly kingdom.

The things in heaven are literally real and Moses had seen them as well: **Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. (Hebrews 8:5)** What we actually see on earth is a partial representation of the true object and structure in heaven though the things on earth have been corrupted by the curse of sin. This heaven is not only a kingdom. It also brings along a better country, a country that is heavenly.

Those saints in the Old Testament believed the promises of God concerning this better country, which is one that is heavenly. It is a better country from heaven and they marched towards the promised land of God that made God proud. **But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (Hebrews 11:16)** God is so pleased with them looking for a better country that God prepared for them a city. Moreover, God is not ashamed to be called their God. What a verse from the Holy Bible! Can God be ashamed of some of His people? A really frightening thought indeed! There might be times where our conduct caused God to be ashamed with us. Should not we be more circumspect while living here on earth so that God would not be ashamed to be called our God as well?

There are things that Christians can do to make God proud. God was so proud of Job that He bragged about him to Satan and got Job into a lot of trouble. Of course it is scary when God brags about His people. God will put them through the fiery furnace of trials and tribulation to prove them for what they are worth. But then again, heaven is real and blessings are assured. What sacrifices are we talking about? Going to heaven and having a home in heaven would be more than enough to compensate for our loss here on earth. No sacrifice is too much to win heaven. No suffering is too much to forsake the blessings in heaven. Is heaven real enough for us to live for the Lord? Unless and until this reality of heaven is dawned on us, living for Christ would still remain theoretical and academic.

So Christians should claim like Paul: **For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (Philippians 3:20)** According to the Greek experts, the best rendering for the word “conversation” is not conversation. Do not listen to some clowns who think they are smart enough to correct the Holy Bible. Conversation is the correct word. All the perversion of the Bible including the New King James changed the word “conversation” to citizenship, which is nonsense as usual. Because we are already sitting in heavenly places right now, that is why we can converse in heaven and our conversation is indeed in heaven. If we believe heaven is real, we will think about heaven and talk about heaven and as such, we converse in heaven.

It is not only conversation that is verbal but such conversation can be seen: **Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. (1 Peter 3:1&2)** A godly woman can have a chaste conversation that can be seen where the unsaved husband might fear God and be won to the Lord. It is not the constant much speaking and incessant nagging that can be heard that move a man. It is a conversation born out of a meek and quiet spirit that can be observed that will touch a man. Conversation needs not be verbal. Today we can have conversations through text messages, emails, online chat and they are not even verbal. The King James Bible is always so advance that no one can mess around with God’s Holy words without looking stupid in their clumsy endeavour to help God out. So a godly woman’s conversation can be seen and can save her husband. Should we not have a conversation that reflects that we are indeed ambassadors for Christ while on earth speaking in a heavenly language through our godly conduct? The world can see our conversation. If our conversation is in heaven, the world can tell there is a difference between a Christian and a lost person.

If our conversation is in heaven, it is imperative that we speak and live that language up there. It is even more so for us today than for the saints in the Old Testament that we be found obedient to the faith that we claim to possess. Why? We are not just listening to a man like Moses who spoke. We are listening to Christ who is now speaking from heaven. **But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and**

to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: (Hebrews 12:22-25)

Here is a picture of the assembly in heaven. We see the exalted glorified Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the general assembly. Christ's conversation is also in heaven. The Lord speaks though not through an audible voice but through the Scriptures that can save sinners even unto the uttermost. The power of such heavenly conversation cannot be underestimated. The Lord Jesus Christ speaks in heaven and being seated in heavenly places with Christ, we can certainly have our conversation in heaven. It is the Lord who speaks and it is the servants of Christ who should obey. So are we going to be obedient to the One who speaks from heaven?

There are many compelling reasons for Christians to be obedient to Christ. One main reason is that this loving Saviour that speaks from heaven has granted Christians tremendous power on earth to do His will. **Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 18:18&19)** Given this assurance from the One who speaks from heaven, there is no reason why Christians should not be obedient to Christ. What privilege it is for us Christians to assemble and to make decisions on spiritual matter on earth where it will be honoured and done for us in heaven! In fact, it should not surprise us Christians sitting in heavenly places right now we have the power and the privilege to ask in prayers according to God's will and it will be a done deal in heaven. Christians right now being residence of heaven of course are conferred privileges where no earthlings could even dream of. Powers of heaven are given to inhabitants of those sitting in heavenly places.

So living here on earth with a body of sin and death and sitting in heavenly places are parallel truths. They exist simultaneously whether you want to believe it or not. It is true that we are right now living on earth. It is also equally true that we are already sitting in heavenly places with Christ. Such truths are taught in the Bible and not many can accept it. The Lord told

Nicodemus: **And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. (John 3:13)** The Lord did not tell Nicodemus that He was from heaven. The Lord told him that He was in heaven while speaking to him on earth. Amazing indeed! But how can the fallen mind of men accept such truth that the Lord was on earth during that time but He was also in heaven at the same time? That is also why we are told that our conversation is in heaven and not from heaven. So it is imperative that we reflect that conversation here on earth to be seen by this lost and dying world.

If we really believe this truth, we will not be so uptight about the things in this world. We will not be so tightfisted and refuse to help others in need with our time, effort and substance. **For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. (Hebrews 10:34)** It is precisely because we have a better and an enduring substance in heaven that we are willing to live sacrificially for others. If heaven is just some devotional truth and not a real place, then being selfish and self-centred in order to indulge to the fullest would be understandable. But heaven is real and the things in heaven are enduring and permanent while the things on earth are temporal. As such, Christians are willing to help others even to their own detriment in material things because they are actually exchanging for something more permanent in heaven. So whenever we are given opportunity to help a fellow Christian and when we help him, we reflect that truth about the reality and the permanence of the things in heaven.

Christians are also told by Peter what we already possess. **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:4&5)** This last time spoken by Peter some 2000 years ago is nearer to the coming of the Lord than our fellow brethren in the past. The things in heaven will not fade away because it is kept by the power of God and they are reserved for us. For the saved, our property in heavenly places are already signed, sealed and delivered by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. For the lost, they do not have such blessings. They only have their current earthly property and in the end, they will move over to their own place like Judas Iscariot into their own hellish pits, destined for the devil and his angels. So be gracious to them on earth if you can.

Christians are indeed not only much blessed and better than the people in this world but the saints in the Old Testament as well: **And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. (Hebrews 11:39&40)** It is indeed quite unbelievable that we are more privileged than the saints in the past in the Old Testament where none of them was promised to be sitting in heavenly places like us. God has undoubtedly reserved a better thing for us according to this promise. What a verse! What a promise! Amazing indeed that God has provided better things for us Christians. This should really motivate Christians to live for Christ and serve Him for His glory. So it is true that we are right now sitting in heavenly places in Christ as real as we are sitting on our premises here on earth. We are sitting so high up there that sinners will envy us if they can see and understand the kind of privileges conferred on us.

People in this world pay good money to go up to tall buildings like the Singapore's Flyer to have a good look at the beauty of a city below. But we saved sinners in Christ need not pay a single cent to sit in heavenly places looking down at the entire galaxies of God's wondrous creation. Who is more privileged? Who is more blessed? China built a building just one floor higher than Taipei to spite them and they are happy about it. This is the "at least I am one up on you" kind of attitude in politics. Dubai will soon have the tallest building in the world, which is 40% taller than the current tallest buildings on earth. The rest of the world would hardly be able to catch up as far as building tall buildings are concerned. Sinners in this world aspire to go up like Lucifer in the past when he said: **For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (Isaiah 14:13)**

What Satan failed to achieve, God gives it to us by grace in His Son to sit with Him in heavenly places. What amazing grace is this that our God should be so kind to us fallen men saved by the precious blood of Christ. Can you ever imagine sitting up in heavenly places with Christ looking down on this vast expanse of God's creation where one day we will judge the world including angels?

Indeed there are seats up in heaven in the heavenly places. So what do we do up there? Watching the world go by like watching a movie? Seats denote authority. When a person takes the chair, he is in a position to command and get things done. Sitting down with Christ has a far-reaching implication with regard to judging in the world to come: **And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matthew 19:28)** Not only those apostles were promised of sitting upon thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel, Paul also pointed out that Christians would have a role to play in judging the world. **Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. (1 Corinthians 6:2-4)**

So sitting up there with Christ depicts our exalted position where one day we will rule and reign with Christ. Ruling and reigning are always from top down and not from bottom up like the kind of democracies we witness on earth. Therefore, Christians are to be rulers in the world to come and we better start preparing ourselves for that coming day. There are works to do in the Kingdom Age and going to heaven is not some kind of fantasies of some aimless unimaginable bliss. Christ is now raised to sit on His Father's throne up in heaven and we are told He has also raised us up to sit with Him in heavenly places. Can we ever fathom what kindness is this that God has done to good for nothing sinners saved by grace like us? Even the Old Testament saints are not so privileged. Do you expect the princes in this world understand our princely state?

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Peter 2:9) Those of us who are sitting in heavenly places belong to this royal priesthood, an holy nation and a peculiar people.

Indeed, we are very very important people whether the people in this world recognize us or not. We have divine royal blood flowing in us, spiritually speaking. So how should we conduct ourselves in this world knowing of our highly exalted state?

It would be indeed ironic that if we are such important guests in this world that we should behave like the world and become worldly, petty and quarrelsome like them. It would be unbecoming of us if we live our lives like the people in this world in the lust of evil things, covetous, getting drunk, curse and swear, cheat and lie and take the name of our God in vain. If we are really so rich having seats in heavenly places with Christ, why are we living in such spiritual poverty as though our only hope and comfort are derived from things in this sin cursed world? So meanwhile down on earth we may be subject to authority and the powers that be for our own good so we behave ourselves. We show by examples that one day, when we sit on those places of authority judging the world in the Kingdom to come, we are indeed worthy of that honour bestowed upon us by our kind and gracious God.

Thus, the commandment for Christians to: **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (Colossians 3:2)** is not a frivolous command with no special significance. This commandment would be meaningless if heaven is not real and sitting in heavenly places right now are just some devotional truths instead of a theological fact. It would be ridiculous to say the least if we are told to set our affections on things above but they turn out to be false. It is impossible to set our affections on things that are above if heaven is not real and our heavenly places up there only have spiritual application instead of a substantive truth. No Old Testament saints were ever told to set their affections on things that are above. Their promises were in fact, earthly on the earth living under the blessings of heaven like those days before the fall of man.

In the future eternal state, there will still be a new heaven and a new earth. There will be people living on earth and in heaven in future. But the body of Christ is explicitly told to set our affections of things that are above. How can we set our affections on things that are above if the heavenly things are not literal? So we can conclude that the heavenly places whereby we are right now sitting on are real. For a start, think about our seats that are up there in the heavenly places. Explore a little further by immersing our hearts and minds on the words of the living God and ask God to reveal a little bit of heaven to us each time. When we dwell more and more on the things that are above, then the things on earth would indeed turn strangely dim in the light of God's glory and grace. It may be we will eventually get homesick and wish to be clothed on with immortality. **For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. (2 Corinthians 5:2-4)**

So when heaven becomes more real to us, the earth will become less and less real and important to us. Hence our real estate in heaven is indeed really a very real piece of real estate. Do we want to set our affection on things that are above, meaning things that are heavenly? Or are we contented with setting our affection on our little pigeonholes here that require regular maintenance and payment of exorbitant taxes, utilities and mortgage? As such, the exhortation from the scripture on setting our affections on things that are above is even more urgent today than in the past. The commandment to lay our treasures in heaven given directly from the mouth of the Lord is

not to be lightly esteemed. **Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)**

If heaven is indeed real to us, laying up treasures in heaven would surely come naturally. The litmus test of the reality of heaven for us Christians is how we shape our attitude towards the things of the Lord Jesus Christ and how we deal with the movement of our hearts on the things on earth. How we allocate our priorities to earthly things in relation to spiritual things in this life is a clear indication on how real heaven is to us. Heaven is indeed a present possession for Christians. It is not a future reality to be experienced when we leave this earth upon expiry of our natural life. The present joy of knowing and experiencing the reality of heaven in this life is a foretaste of better things to come.

May heaven be more real to us this day than in time past! May the Lord be more precious to us who set us up with Him in heavenly places to rule and reign with Him in the future! May we know how to live this life on earth to reflect that heavenly glory which shall be revealed in us!

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kiv-asia.com.