

HOME OF THE SOUL

Int.

1. Aim: To explain that heaven is the eternal home of the Christian soul.
2. John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
3. Preached nearly a thousand sermons from this pulpit. All of them were aimed at getting us to live so that we could save our soul in that heavenly home.
4. All the preachers who have ever preached in this building have had that as their goal !
5. Many songs written about heaven
 - a. Heaven will surely be worth it all - declares that no effort is too great for us to gain heaven.
 - b. Home of the Soul -
6. Heaven is the home of the Soul !

Discussion

I. JOHN 14:1-3

A. Setting¹

1. This was delivered by Jesus to His apostles just before His Crucifixion
2. He had already told them of Judas' evil intentions and predicted that Peter would deny him, and predicted his own death

¹ Show us The Father by W.T. Hamilton - 1964 by Nichols Bros. Publishing Co. P. 141

3. The disciples were distressed over the announcement of his death - they needed hope and encouragement.

4. Jesus knowing that his death was imminent gave comfort and help to others.

B. Let Not Your heart be troubled ²

1. He was not referring to the physical heart - the blood pump in our chest - but to the spirit or mind of man. Heart is a synonym for mind. - that part of us that reason, and believes.

2. Troubled

a. The word literally means to agitate, to take away one's calmness of mind

b. Jesus did not intend to discourage his disciples at a time when they needed the greatest of encouragement.

c. They were troubled by the uncertainties which faced them. They were afraid because they knew that soon Jesus would be taken from them.

3. Their faith would help them avoid being troubled !

a. They did believe in God - you believe in God - you cannot have faith in God without having faith in Christ.

b. Therefore you can believe in me.

c. Do not let the things that are happening shake your faith. Complete trust would calm their troubled and anguished heart.³

4. Since you believe, don't be troubled !

5. But they would find comfort that there was a heavenly home awaiting them.

²Hamilton p. 141

³ Annual Lesson Commentary Nov. 29, 1981 p. 80

- C. The provisions of the Father and His promises would relieve their anxiety - v. 2
1. Jesus would soon leave them, but they would not be homeless forever.
 2. In my Father's house are many mansions
 - a. Mansions = literally means abiding place
 - b. Not just a place to stop briefly and visit but a place to abide for ever !
 3. This would be the home of the faithful forever.
 4. The belief that there is a heaven increases one's hope and helps him to bear his troubles
 - a. 2 Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
 - b. Here it is called a house
 - c. Heaven is spoken of as
 - (1) a "country" - Heb. 11:16
 - (2) a "City" - Heb. 11:10
 - (3) a "kingdom" - 2 Pet. 1:11
 - (4) an "inheritance" - 1 Pet. 1:3
- D. I go to prepare a place for you - v. 2 ⁴
1. His going made his death necessary
 - a. This shows his love for mankind - Jn. 3:16
 - b. The purpose of his going was for YOU - Heb. 2:9
 - c. He was going to leave them

⁴ Hamilton p. 142

2. To prepare
 - a. He prepared a place - we prepare ourselves
 - b. God has always prepared a place for his people
 - (1) Eden - Gen. 2:8 for Adam and Eve
 - (2) Canaan - Deut. 6:10,11 - the promised land for Israel
 - (3) The Church - the place where we prepare for eternity
 - c. What will it be like? We read more about that in the book of Revelation
3. A place
 - a. Not the earth - it will be destroyed - 2 Pet 3:8-10
 - b. It will be a real place not some mystical "state"
 - c. What kind of place? A large place, a prepared place - a place where Christ is

E. I Will come Again. V. 3 ⁵

1. This was the abiding hope of the first century Christians
 - a. Tit. 2:13 - blessed hope
 - b. 1 Thes. 4:13-18 - we have hope
2. They looked for him
 - a. They knew he was coming, but didn't know when
 - b. This was more than a mere religious discussion for them
3. It should be exciting for us to think He is coming again
 - a. He will come for us - not send for us - We will be with Him forever
 - b. With that hope made real in our thinking, it will affect our entire attitude toward worldly things - Col. 3:1 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

⁵ Hamilton p. 142-143

II. HEAVEN IS THE HOME OF THE SOUL

- A. SOUL is that part of us made in the image of God - Gen. 1:27
1. The soul will continue to live when we die. Jas. 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
 2. Our body returns to the dust of the earth - Ecl. 12:7 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it"
 3. The spirit or soul returns unto God
- B. After the resurrection there will be a day of Judgment
1. John 5:28-29
 2. Those who have the resurrection of life will have a home in heaven
- C. The heavenly home is a place of rest
1. Matt. 11:28-30 - word "rest" is used two times
 - a. Rest from sin - we have this now when we obey the gospel - dead to sin
 - b. The second rest refers to the heavenly realm - we have this in promise
 2. Rev. 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."
 - a. Rest from this life of labor and toil and tears
 - b. The rest here is always temporary and cut short sometimes
 - c. There it will be eternal rest.
 - d. A woman was very sick at the point of death and she said, "I am tired and want to go home." She was talking about that eternal rest in heaven.

D. Our home in heaven is a better place

1. Heb. 10:34b "...you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven." (NKJV)
 - a. These Christians had been persecuted - they had hope of a better place
 - b. Heb. 11:16 - desire a better country.
 - c. These heroes of faith desired a better place
2. Better
 - a. We can compare what we have with what we shall have
 - b. Our soul longs for that better place - called heaven - the home of the soul

E. That home of the soul will have no tears

1. Rev. 21:4
 - a. God will remove all cause for tears and sorrow
 - b. Parents will pick up a crying child and brush away all tears
2. Tears in this life are caused by death, sickness, disease, injuries and disappointments
3. Soon we will be done with the troubles of this world - because in heaven the home of the soul there will be no tears

F. The main attraction of that heavenly home will be the population

1. God will be there
 - a. Rev. 21:3 "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."
 - b. God's presence will be enjoyed forever in the home of the soul

2. Christ will be there
 - a. John 14:2-3 - receive you unto myself
 - b. In heaven we will get to know Jesus - the one who died for us so we could be in that home of the soul.

3. The Holy Spirit will be there
 - a. The Holy Spirit was present in the creation -
 - b. In heaven we will be with the Holy Spirit, Christ and God.

4. All the righteous people will be there
 - a. Rev. 15:1-3 - the redeemed from all ages will be a part of that heavenly home
 - b. Matt. 8:11 "And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven."
 - c. Heaven means being with "...the spirits of just men made perfect." Heb. 12:23b

5. Re-unions with all our loved ones - Illustration - The people make heaven attractive
 - a. Babies and children that have died we know are in heaven
 - b. We have hope for those we knew who were Christians, that we will be able to be re-united with them in that beautiful home of the soul.

Conclusion

1. It matters not what else you do in life, if you miss heaven you have been a complete failure.
 - a. You might gather about you great riches and fame and leave thousands of friends to mourn your departing, but if you are not ready for heaven you have been a miserable failure.
 - b. On the other hand, you may die in a charity home for the poor and be buried in a potter's field without a single friend to mourn, but if you receive heaven, your life has been a marvelous success.
2. You can't afford to miss heaven for if you miss it, you miss all. You will miss the home of your soul.
3. John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
 - a. Our hearts are troubled by the troubles and sins of this world
 - b. We have a mansion being prepared for us
 - c. He will receive us - if we are ready
 - d. Plan of Salvation - HBRCB - Restored RCP
4. Illustration - Heaven - He'll hold to My Hand