

# From Earth to Heaven

## Introduction

2 Peter 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

- 1. We sing a song entitled “There’s a Great Day Coming.”**
  - A. It is important that we realize that the return of Christ is not a myth or fiction – it is a reality!**
  - B. When that day will occur remains a mystery to all except God.**

Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

- 2. May we all understand this very important fact:**
  - A. It should not be WHEN that day will come that concerns us the most, but rather – HOW we live until that day comes.**
    - 1) That was Peter’s concern for all Christians.**
      - a. He said “what manner of persons ought you to be”**
- 3. This afternoon I would like to show the necessity of faithful Christian conduct from this point in our life until the judgment day.**

## **We Should Live a Christ-Like Life**

### **1. Christ is our example**

#### **A. We should consider His “steps,” “mind,” and “deeds.”**

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps:

Philippians 2:3-5 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus,

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, **who went about doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

### **2. Jesus’ life and teaching were in perfect harmony.**

#### **A. He cared enough to die for us.**

#### **B. He loved unconditionally.**

#### **C. He did His Father’s will.**

### **3. If we will live a Christ-like life, then we will be walking in the paths of righteousness.**

## **We Should Strive to Save Our Family**

- 1. A man once said “I have gone from place to place saving souls and lost my own son.”**
- 2. Noah preached during all the years that he was building the ark. It is said of him that he “was a preacher of righteousness.”**

2 Peter 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, **a preacher of righteousness**, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

- A. Yet, in all those years he saved his wife, his sons, and his three daughters in law.**

1 Peter 3:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, **in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved** through water.

- 3. Joshua was a busy leader of the Israelites, yet he said:**

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

- 4. The world and the church needs more fathers like Noah and Joshua.**

Genesis 18:19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, **that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice**, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but **bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

## **We Should Be Committed to the church of Christ**

- 1. We should NEVER be ashamed of the “CHURCH OF CHRIST.”**
  - A. After all, it is the church of the New Testament.**
  - B. Christ died for it and reigns over it!**

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God **which He purchased with His own blood.**

1 Corinthians 15:25 For **He must reign** till He has put all enemies under His feet.

- 2. When Jesus returns, the church of Christ – the church belonging to Christ, His church, will be delivered to His Father!**

1 Corinthians 15:24 Then comes the end, when **He delivers the kingdom to God the Father**, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

## **We Should Strive for Unity**

- 1. We should make it our aim to strive to have unity, peace, and harmony within the church.**  
**Ephesians 4:1-6**
  - A. We truly find in these verses what we must possess to have God pleasing unity.**
- 2. It is important that the church functions in a unified manner.**
  - A. With the Bible as our guide in faith and practice, we should never allow false doctrine, opinion or supposition to lead the church into error, liberalism, or legalism.**
  - B. May we stand squarely on the Bible, never swaying to the left or to the right!**

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **“We ought to obey God rather than men”**.

## **We Should Live Making Sure We Are in the Book of Life**

### **1. Our journey through life is being recorded in the Book of Life.**

#### **A. Moses was aware of this book.**

Exodus 32:32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of **Your book which You have written.**"

#### **B. So was the apostle Paul.**

Philippians 4:3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, **whose names are in the Book of Life.**

### **2. Jesus told His disciples, "rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20)**

### **3. We see that in the Book of Life are the names of the redeemed.**

#### **A. Is our name in that book right now?**

#### **B. Our name is recorded in that book when we become a Christian and remains there by living a faithful life – devoted to Christ our Savior and King.**

- 1) When the Book of Life is opened, it is the most important thing of all – that our NAME is there!**  
**Revelation 20:11-15**

## **Conclusion**

- 1. The way we live our life from this point forward will determine where we will spend our eternity!**  
**Revelation 2:10**

