No More Sorrow, No More Pain

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Is it even possible for us to imagine a place where tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain are absent? However, that is what we are promised in our text. We live in a world that is filled to capacity with those things just mentioned. Revelation chapters 20 through 22 brings to an end divine revelation (Revelation 22:18-19). These three chapters clearly show what lies ahead of all mankind (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:7-8). The message of these three closing chapters of the Bible sets forth the promise of eternal bliss for the faithful and eternal damnation for the disobedient. The promise of eternal life should motivate all men and give us the blessed assurance of eternal happiness for the saved.

The Person Who Promised

Promises are made each and every day, and promises are broken just as often. However in our text it is God who making the promise and His promises will never fail (Titus 1:2). Paul spoke of this assurance in 2 Timothy 1:12, “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” We can have peace of mind by knowing that what God has promised will not fail and will surely come to pass.

We must always bear in mind that God’s desire is for all men to be saved (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:16). In the very beginning God promised to provide the means of salvation for everyone (Genesis 3:15). He created man and placed him in the Garden of Eden. He then provided all things which were needed to sustain life and happiness (Genesis 2:8-9). Verse nine speaks of the tree of life, “And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” The tree of life gave Adam and Eve the blessing of immortality and endless happiness. This tree provided the fruit that would produce eternal life.

God gave one stipulation, one commandment concerning the eating of the fruit of the trees in the garden. He said, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17). Adam and Eve disobeyed and thus were separated from God. They were sent from the Garden of Eden and, lost access to the tree of life. Their disobedience produced sin, and thereby lost the blessings found in the garden, “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life” (Genesis 3:22-24).

Sin is man’s great enemy. It separates him from God (Isaiah 59:1-2) and places him in a most dangerous condition. God’s desire has always been for mankind to be saved, thus He did not leave us without hope. When Adam and Eve sinned, God punished them for their sin but also made a promise to do something by which sin could be remitted. He promised to provide a way for our reconciliation (Genesis 3:15). From this point onward we see the theme of the Bible unfold before us as we read His word. The Bible's theme is simple, yet profound; it can be summed up as the “salvation of men, through Jesus Christ to the glory of God.” Because He loves us, He gave the only thing which could remove the blight of sin. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins (John 3:16; Romans 5:10). Every man has sinned at some point (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8, 10), therefore we are in need of the promised redemptive power promised in Genesis 3:15.

The Promise Given

Once again I would emphasize that this is a promise that will never be broken. Heaven is the place that is being prepared for those who will be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10). Jesus promised in John 14 that He was going “…to prepare a place for you, 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 also be” (John 14:2-3). Paul spoke of this wonderful place in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Heaven is the place that is promised and prepared for those who have “set their affections on things above” (Colossians 3:2). Remember we discussed how the tree of life was removed from man’s presence in Genesis chapter three? It was identified as the tree that would give everlasting life (Genesis 3:22). Now in the last book of God’s revelation we once again see the promise concerning that tree; “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7). Eternal life is once again made available to men.

We often sing the song, “How Beautiful Heaven Must Be,” yet it is still hard for our finite minds to comprehend such a glorious place. The description is far beyond and above what we experience in this lifetime. The physical description of heaven is awesome to consider. We read of walls of jasper, a city of pure gold, pearl gates, streets of gold, and other magnificent descriptions (Revelation 21:18-27). These material things are used to describe the beauty and grandeur of heaven. Precious stones and gold are used to picture its beauty in our minds even though heaven will be a spiritual place rather than one filled with material riches. In Revelation 21:4-5 we are given another view into the beauty of the eternal home of the faithful. The description produces great comfort when we think of such a place; “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain...” Those valuable jewels, pure gold and pearls are things which most of us have never had. But all of us have felt the burdens that come with pain, sorrow and tears. We will not miss any of the valuables we had in this life but it will be a glorious thing to be free from the deep pains, loneliness and sorrow experienced on life’s journey.

I love to sing the song, “Where The Soul Never Dies.” The chorus expresses the sentiment found in Revelation 21:4, “No sad farewells, No tear dimmed eyes, Where all is love, And the soul never dies.” What a wonderful thought and glorious expectation to have. No wonder Paul would say, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in
Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). These are expressions of confidence based upon the promises of God.

**The Explanation – How Can this Be?**

How can such a thing be possible? How can we be free of tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain? Of course only God can make this become a reality. The scripture explains, “…for the former things are passed away.” Things as we have known them will be no more. It is not that we will be free of emotions. It is that we will be freed from those things that brought sorrow, pain and unhappiness. Verse five in our text states, “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” The word for “new” in this verse is defined as “of a new kind, unprecedented” (Thayer's Greek Definitions). This same word for new is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Becoming a new creature is possible because Jesus came into this world to abolish sin. In heaven former things that caused pain and sorrow will be gone. These emotions are characteristic of this world. The old world will be no more, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). Peter goes on to say that “…according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13). The old order of things is gone and we now can enjoy the new that was promised.

**Conclusion**

The plan to redeem mankind was set in motion when sin entered the world. God set in place the divine plan for removing the sins from all of us. Heaven, the home prepared for those who prepare, is the final part of His scheme of redemption. The old will be gone and then God’s eternal plan will be completed. All men will be judged (Revelation 20:12-13). We will either be saved or lost. The saved will have overcome the trials and temptations of this world (1 John 2:15-17; Revelation 21:7). Those who will be eternally lost are identified in Revelation 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Men are racing through life at a fast pace. Very often they do not consider what is behind the door through which we all will step. Most folks only think of today and never consider eternity. God’s word warns of that kind of mindset, “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheath away” (James 4:13-14).

In this life we all experience many things that bring sorrow, grief and pain. God has promised a place in which none of those things will be found. In heaven we will spend our time rejoicing and praising God with days that have no end. For one to enjoy such a wonderful place he must be obedient to God’s word. Jesus came and died for all men, yet not all men will avail themselves to the sacrifice of God’s only Son. He “…became the author of salvation unto all them that obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9). This is accomplished by obeying the gospel of Christ. Every person can enjoy the tree of life in eternity by hearing the gospel (Romans 10:17), by believing the gospel (Mark 16:16), by repenting of sins (Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 2:38); by confessing Christ as the Son of God (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37) and being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). Having done these things we must continually be faithful all the days of our lives (1 John 1:7; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10).

From the beginning God has desired that all men be saved. He gave us the plan of salvation, and gave us a view of heaven which should motivate everyone to seek that eternal heavenly home. What a joy it will be.

**God’s Precious Promises...**

**No More Sorrow, No More Pain**

by Toney L. Smith

© 2009

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the 27th Annual Mid-West Lectures, “God’s Precious Promises.” To hear or view the complete lesson go to www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm

or contact the

39th Street Church of Christ

15331 East 39th Street

Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA