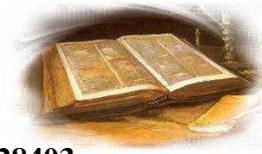


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Have We Forgotten Our Resting Place - by Vestal Chaffin

Sometimes we get tired and weary and need some rest but seemingly many go to the wrong place for rest. They go to some kind of sports, entertainment or contest of some sort. Our homes should be the best place for physical rest, peace and quietness. We as Christians look forward to our "resting place" in heaven. Those people who do not obey the gospel have no hope for rest but "shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (**Rev. 20:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-9**).

Today, we are living in the third dispensation of this old world. There was the Patriarchal dispensation which lasted about 2500 years. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth" (**Gen. 6:5**) and destroyed the earth with a flood. Then there was the Mosaical dispensation which lasted about 1500 years, and the people again forgot the rest that God had promised them (**Heb. 3:18**). Jeremiah describes Israel as a rebellious and sinful people. He

says, "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place" (**Jer. 50:6**). We are living under the final and Christian dispensation. The two former dispensations ended with some what of a disgrace as far as man is concerned. This present dispensation will end with the destruction of this world (**2 Pet. 3:10-11**). How will it be in the end? Have we forgotten our resting place?

This old world is not our eternal abiding place of rest. Here we are only pilgrims traveling through this world to our eternal home. This world is not suitable for an eternal resting place, it is filled with sorrow and death. Man, like all earthly things, must pass away. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (**Eccl. 12:7; 2 Cor. 5:1**). All the

pleasures and joys of earth are transient. They are only momentary compared to eternity (**2 Cor. 4:18**). Yet people will spend their leisure time seeking after pleasure, TV, sports, etc. rather than reading and studying God's word and preparing themselves to go to heaven.

This world is not able to give us the things we need most. It makes no difference what we may have that is of a temporal nature. There are few, if any, that are completely satisfied. Man should be longing for something that this old world cannot give. When Job was afflicted with boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head, he expressed a desire not to live always. "So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life. I loathe; I would not live always; let me alone; for my days are vanity" (**Job 7:15-16**). "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (**Job 14:1**). He was looking forward to that rest that he would receive, "As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow . . ." (**Job 7:2**). When David was sorely oppressed by the wicked, he said, "And I said, O that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away, and be at rest" (**Ps. 55:6**). The apostle Paul was looking for something beyond this veil of tears that was far better

than this life. He said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (**Phil. 1:2; 3:14**). The apostle was always striving and pressing toward his goal, to reach that rest that was promised to the people of God (**Heb. 4:9; Phil. 3:14**).

Have we forgotten our resting place? If we sincerely desire to go to heaven, we will serve the Lord and make preparation to go there. Too many people today are wedded to this world and its pleasures and have no desire to go to heaven. Now is the time to serve the Lord, "the night cometh, when no man can work" (**Jn. 9:4**). They fail to lift up their eyes to him from whom all blessings flow, and in whom we "live and have our being" (**Acts 17:28**). If any one does not desire to go home to rest in heaven, he will not make any preparation. Jesus invites all who labor in his kingdom to come and receive rest. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (**Matt. 11:28-29**).

Along life's pathways, there are many decisions that must be made. We must decide to accept the Lord's invitation or reject it. There is only one way to receive that rest, that is by accepting the

Lord's invitation. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (**Jn. 14:6**). There are no detours or by-passes; we must accept Christ in his own appointed way to receive that rest. He has given us that one way to be reconciled to God (**Eph. 2:16; 4:4-6**). "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord" (**Lam. 3:40**). This is a personal decision. I cannot decide for you, neither can any one else. If you fail to make the necessary preparation now, in this life, no one can share his preparation with you in that great and final day. The five wise virgins could not share their oil with the foolish virgins (**Matt. 25:1-13**).

Therefore, we should give diligent heed to make the necessary preparation. "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it . . . Let us labour therefore to enter into the rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief " (**Heb. 4:1,11**). Let us live the Christian life day by day, and strive to glorify God every day of our life. Let us fully add the Christian graces (**2 Pet. 1:5-11**), and finally enter the eternal kingdom. May we never, never, forget our eternal resting place. - **Via Guardian of**

Truth XXXVIII: 24, p.9 December 15, 1994

Heaven-Centered

Thinking - by Bruce James

Oh how we need more heaven-centered minds! Many have forgotten that this world is not our home and that we're just passing through. Carnal-mindedness is rampaging across our land and it has even filtered into the Lord's body. So many are so wrapped up in the cares and affairs of this life that they have made little or no preparation for the next life.

The Holy Scriptures constantly emphasize the need for heaven-centered thinking and living. Paul said, "Seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (**Col. 3:1, 2**). The Colossians needed to revamp their thinking to be more heaven-centered rather than earth-centered. A similar admonition fell from the lips of our Lord in his Mount Olivet discourse, "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 and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (**Matt. 6:19-21**).

In spite of the plain declaration of the preceding passages, a mad dash to accumulate earthly treasures has relegated laying up heavenly treasures to a place of secondary importance. When will we ever realize the futility of setting our affections upon a place that is temporal in nature? Peter reminded his readers of the certainty of Christ's coming and the attendant consequences. When the day of the Lord comes, the heavens will pass away with a great noise, the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth and all of its works will be burned up (**2 Pet. 3:10**). Peter then asked a question that we would do well to soberly examine. He said, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. . .?" (**2 Pet. 3:11**). In other words, since the earth and all within it is going to someday be annihilated, should you be earth centered or heaven-centered in your thinking?

Oh how we need to emulate and imitate the heaven-centered thinking of the heroes of faith chronicled in **Hebrews 11**. They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (**v. 13**). They desired a better country, that is, an heavenly country (**v. 16**). They realized that here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come (**v. 14**). Abraham looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God (**v. 10**). It was heaven-centered thinking that prompted Moses to choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season (**v. 25**).

Heaven-centered thinking explains why some were tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection (**v. 35ff**).

Likewise, heaven-centered thinking will enable us to remember to love not the world, neither the things that are in the world (**1 John 2:15**). Let us never forget that the world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever (**1 John 2:17**). 156 C.R. 492, Carthage, Texas 75633 - **Via Truth Magazine Vol. XLIV: 8 p22 April 20, 2000**



**When problem comes
into your life like a
non-stop rain,
Always remember
that GOD will always
be your umbrella.**