

## HEAVEN'S NOT MUCH LIKE OUR TOWN

We live in a nice section in the country. It is a great place to bring up children. It is a nice place to retire. People are friendly and we have plenty of conveniences. The streets are safe. The economy is good.

Still...upon reflection, I think we would all agree that it is not much like heaven. We have several things in our town that you would never see in heaven.

**Our town has a cemetery, but heaven doesn't.** There are no hillsides dotted with the markers of loved ones "across Jordan." You won't find silent cities of the dead in heaven, for no one ever dies there! John wrote, "There shall be no more death..." (Rev. 21:4).

**Our town has a hospital, but heaven doesn't.** This time of year the hospitals are filled with the sick, but there are no sicknesses, diseases, or injuries in heaven. Sickness and all its ill affects are reversed in heaven. John said, "The former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

**Our town has a jail, but heaven doesn't.** We live in a wicked society. Every night the news tells us about those who were robbed, raped, assaulted, extorted, beaten, or killed the night before. We rush to fasten our windows, bolt our doors, and secure our homes.

But did you know that there will be no bad news in heaven? The doors on those mansions have no dead bolts, windows have no locks, and there are no burglar alarms. "And there shall no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27).

The wedding feast is by "invitation only" and nobody crashes that party! Heaven doesn't need a jail, for there will be no criminals in heaven.

**Our town has a drug store, but heaven doesn't.** Here we have to deal with headaches, arthritis, and a million other pains. There are no drug stores in heaven! Because nobody has any sickness! John wrote, "Neither shall there be anymore pain..." (Rev. 21:4).

**Our town has security lights, but heaven doesn't.** Most businesses, and many house owners pay additional fees for street lamps, but in heaven "the glory of God did lighten it, and the

Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23). "There shall be no night there" (Rev. 21:25b), so there will be no street lamps, no night-lights, no candles, and no light switches.

**Our town has an adult video store, nightclubs, and places to gamble, but heaven does not.** There are many places of temptation in our community. The devil and his workers have been busy (1 Pet. 5:8), and their influence is seen all around. Oh, how we wish we could lay our armor aside and just rest from the constant battle of faith (Eph. 6:13-18).

That day is coming! In the land where we are staking our claim, the devil has no passport. In fact, he will have been cast down into the lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 2:10). His helpers, too, who are personified as the beast and the false prophet by John, will be cast into that lake (19:20). There are no porn shops, beer stores, or casinos in heaven (cf. Pro. 20:1; Eph. 6:18).

Don't you want to go to such a place? Have you made your reservations by trusting in Jesus, submitting to His will, contacting His blood, and reaching His grace? His requirements for His salvation are found in His Gospel. These include: learning about Him (John 6:44-45), believing in Him as God's Son (John 8:24), repenting of all sins for Him (Luke 13:3), confessing faith in His deity (Rom. 10:9-10), and being baptized into Him (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16). He then asks that we live faithfully unto death (Rev. 2:10). Then we will be ushered into a place that is not really much like our town!

---

**Allen Webster** *from Eastside Edifier*

## RECIPE FOR UNITY

Although religious groups differ on many things, on one thing we can agree—religious division exists. Regardless of why it exists, it needs to be destroyed. Many have attempted to address it simply by accepting it. This is often called unity in diversity, and is an oxymoron in the religious world. True unity cannot exist through a multiplicity of religious beliefs, as evidenced by "Christendom" today.

Religious division is sin. Jesus earnestly prayed for unity among his believers (Jn. 17:11, 20-23). The New Testament is replete with commands to be like-minded (Phil. 2:2-4; 3:16; 1 Pet.

3:8, et. al.). Paul made it crystal clear in 1 Corinthians 1:10: "I beseech you...that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Is this unity even possible? Is there really any way to mend the religious discord? God would not give us these commands if they were impossible to obey. All things are possible with God, but this requires complete reliance on and obedience to Him. So, how do we achieve this unity?

The first step might be the hardest-try! We must be willing to study God's Word together. Until we drop opinions and rely on the Bible, we will never get anywhere. Second, we must have the "right" attitude. If we stop trying to be "right" and let God be right, we will see progress. Third, recognize the Bible for what it is—our complete and only authority in matters of life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

God has promised us that His Scriptures will thoroughly equip the man of God for every good work. Finally, understanding this, we absolutely must recognize the truth of 1 Peter 4:11: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." If everyone who wants to follow God would do this, not only would religious unity be possible, it is guaranteed. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another..." (1 Jn. 1:7).

What are the dangers of ignoring this biblical recipe? First, those who claim to be Christians, yet have never obeyed the gospel plan of salvation, will remain lost. Second, all other lost souls will remain lost. Finally, Christians who refuse to evangelize will be lost (Jas. 4:17).

This is a very simple recipe. Some might even call it Pollyannaish. But I challenge all those who claim the name of Christ to try it and see. Take a moment and imagine the effects true Christianity could have on this nation if all those who claim to be Christ's followers would unite on the Bible only. This is the restoration plea!

---

**David Ray** *from Eastside Edifier*

## **BIRTHDAY**

Ed Hanson, 05-26.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Janice Carter (PM). Millie Robertson had a medical procedure on Thursday at Shawnee Mission Medical Center. Kim Clark is in the ICU at Lee's Summit Hospital. Her family has requested limited visitation. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams has been moved to Room D-3 of the Johnson County Nursing Center at 11875 Sunset Dr. in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

The James' were at Clinton. The Thrasher's were at the Gospel Meeting at 39<sup>th</sup> Street last week. Chris Edwards was in San Francisco on business.

## **GRADUATION**

Natalie Parish will graduate from Shawnee Mission North High School on May 23, 2006. Congratulations!

## **THANKS**

Our thanks is extended to those who taught, labored, provided food and attended our Children's Day!

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, May 21 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 65; Sunday PM, 47; Wednesday PM, 45.

## **Those To Serve**

May 21, 2006

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**  
**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**PRESIDE..... Michael Simmons**  
**ASSIST.....Allen Scott**  
**ASSIST.....David Adams**  
**CLOSING PRAYER.....Charles Tullis**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Carter**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Michael Simmons**

**WEDNESDAY May 24th**

**SONG LEADER..... Myron Nebergall**  
**INVITATION ..... John Cody Carter**

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

#### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

#### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

**Phone: (913) 764-2325**

**E-mail: [olathecoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olathecoc@sbcglobal.net)**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**515 WEST PARK**

**P.O. BOX 482**

**OLATHE, KANSAS 66051**

**[www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm)**

**[www.oabs.org/olathe.asp](http://www.oabs.org/olathe.asp)**