

We Have An Anchor!

Lesson 5: Longing For Our Heavenly Home



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

We Have An Anchor!

Lesson 5: Longing For Our Heavenly Home

Learn that this world is not your home, that you have a living hope through Christ, that you have reservations in Heaven, and focus on the things that are not seen

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW152

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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We Have an Anchor!

Longing For Our Heavenly Home

It is easy to become distracted by the storms of this life or to let our guards down and get pulled out to sea by the current. Sometimes we put so much focus on the individual “moments” of our lives that we lose sight of the “big picture” of what we should be living for. Sometimes the physical concerns and pleasures seem to take precedence over the spiritual things.

So, whenever sickness takes us or our family members by storm, we may overreact and put all of our focus on that physical situation so as to make God take a back seat. Or, whenever we lose a job, we may panic and forsake the Lord until we can “get back on our feet.” Or, whenever we are enjoying good times in our lives, we may be having such a good time that we get caught up in the physical things and forget about God.

Regardless of how it may be manifested, it is a common problem for us to get caught up in whatever moment we are currently living in and forget what really matters. Yet, if we are guilty of this, then we do not have an anchor! You see, the anchor for our souls is the eager anticipation of something that is far better than anything this world has to offer. Hebrews 6:19 says, “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.” But, the problem is that we let go of that anchor far too often in order to hold on to something physical.

However, if we want to correct this problem, we must develop a true and intense longing for our

Heavenly home. Listen to 1 Peter 1:3-16. This passage will serve as the main text for this lesson.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

In this fifth lesson, we want to consider some basic lessons from this text in order to develop an intense longing for our Heavenly home. In order to survive the storms of this life, we must throw our anchor in Heaven and never allow the trials, temptations, or persecutions that are associated with

this life to convince us to let go! We simply must recognize that the temporary things of this life are never, ever, ever, ever...ever, ever, ever, ever worth forfeiting the home that God has prepared for those who love and obey Him!

This World Is Not Our Home

Whenever Peter wrote the hope-filled words we read in 1 Peter 1:3-16, who was he writing to? Notice that verse 3 stated, “Blessed be the God and Father of *our* Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten *us* again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (emphasis mine, EK). But, who is this? Verse 1 says that Peter (who was an apostle of Jesus Christ) wrote to the “pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.” So, from these verses, we can gather that Peter was writing to Christians – and that these Christians had been scattered (evidently due to persecution, see 1 Peter 1:6). The fact that they were pilgrims and exiles here on this earth meant that they were in search of something better than the temporary things they were experiencing.

Trials are temporary

Hebrews chapter 11 (as we will study in our next lesson) is full of real-life stories of faithful men and women who found victory through faith in God. But, as we will consider more in our next study, they were not without their share of trials (of various sorts). These trials were opportunities for them to prove that they had placed full confidence in God and would not settle for the temporary things of this life.

So, Hebrews 11:13-16 says, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to

be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Even the worst trials we face cannot begin to compare with the Heavenly country that God’s people should be longing for! Yes, there will be death, serious illnesses of many different kinds, paralysis, blindness, broken families and relationships, layoffs and firings, break-ins and thefts, etc., etc., etc. But, none of these things will last forever. They are all part of this earthly system that is temporary. Therefore, you must fully embrace the promises of God and confess that you are a stranger and pilgrim on this earth and never settle for anything less than the Heavenly country that has been promised to you!

Temptations are temporary

One of the kinds of trials that we face in life is temptation. With temptation, Satan is trying his best to lure us away from God by appealing to our own physical desires (see James 1:14-15). He hopes that appealing to those physical desires will cause us to decide to please ourselves rather than God. So, if he can get us to act to fulfill our physical desires in ways that go against God’s laws, then he will be successful in getting us to let go of our anchor in Heaven!

So, Peter made a plea to those Christians who were pilgrims in 1 Peter 2:11-12. “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

Satan desperately wants you to lose sight of what is most important in life in any given moment and put your focus on what will make *you* the happiest or that will appeal to your physical desires in that moment. So, he wants you to engage in sinful sexual relations rather than exercise self-control. He wants you to lust rather than be content. He wants you to worry rather than trust. He wants you to engage in recreation rather than attend the assemblies of a church. He wants you to work unnecessary overtime rather than spend time teaching your family

the ways of the Lord. He wants you to spend your time being busy with mundane earthly work rather than study your Bible, visit those who are in need, pray, encourage your brethren, or teach the gospel. The bottom line is that Satan desperately wants you to put your focus on earthly things that are temporary rather than put your focus on the eternal things of God!

Persecutions are temporary

The Christians Peter was writing to in 1 Peter were, apparently, being persecuted. Once again, 1 Peter 1:6-7 said that they were being “grieved by various trials” and that the “genuineness” of their faith was being tested by fire. But, Peter said this would only be “for a little while.”

Similarly, the book of Revelation deals at length with the subject of Christians being persecuted. During the time the book of Revelation was being written, there was significant and widespread persecution throughout the Roman empire. Sometimes these Christians would be separated from their families. Sometimes they would have great difficulty getting jobs. Sometimes these Christians were thrown into prison. Sometimes these Christians were killed. And, sometimes these Christians were killed in barbaric ways. All because they were Christians. One picture in the book of Revelation (6:9-11) records the souls of Christians who had been slain crying out, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then, the Lord gave them each a white robe and said that they should “rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.”

Even the worst persecution can only last for a little while. But, Satan uses persecution against the people of God to try and pressure them to avoid physical consequences by renouncing their faith in Jesus Christ, by going along with the sinful things of the world, or by simply not teaching those in sin the ways of Jesus. Likewise, he wants you to lose sight of what is most important whenever he persecutes you (and God promises that those who are His people will be persecuted, see 2 Timothy 3:12). Satan wants you to choose friends and co-workers above God. He

wants you to choose a job above God. He wants you to choose worldly security above God. But, as pilgrims on this earth, Christians must persevere through the persecutions, recognizing that (at worst) they only last “a little while”!

We Have A Living Hope

What helps pilgrims make it through the difficulties during the time of their pilgrimage is the hope of the homeland they are seeking. They have made the determination that the homeland is worth the temporary struggles and sufferings that will be part of the journey. And, for Christians, the same determination must be made. Christians must determine that it is worth suffering and denying themselves of worldly pleasures in order to reach Heaven. Then, it is essential to recognize that the Christian’s hope is a *living* one; not one that is just a fantasy! Once again, 1 Peter 1:3-4 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

Only possible through Jesus Christ

As we studied in lesson 3, recognize that the only way to have any true and living hope is through Jesus Christ. Outside of the sacrifice made by Jesus, there is no hope. For instance, Acts 4:12 records Peter saying (on another occasion), “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” No other person or thing can offer you the quality of true hope that Jesus Christ offers! Therefore, whenever you are going through trials, recognize that no other response to those trials can give you the kind of hope that Jesus Christ offers. Whenever you are being tempted, recognize that no earthly pleasure can give you the kind of hope that Jesus Christ offers. And, whenever you are being persecuted, recognize that nothing and no one can

give you the hope and comfort that Jesus Christ offers.

Specifically, Peter talks about this living hope being available “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Although Jesus’ life, death, and burial were also all necessary to the mercy of God being shown toward us, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is especially important for the hope of future life. For, Jesus’ blood and death saved us from experiencing the wrath of God. But, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead provided the victory over death that is necessary in order for us to be raised again and live eternally in Heaven (see Romans 5:9-11).

1 Corinthians 15 helps us to understand this even further. After the apostle Paul provided evidence that Jesus Christ did raise from the dead (see verses 1-11), he helps us understand the significance of this. Verses 12-19 say, “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

An inheritance from God

Thanks be to God that He did raise Jesus Christ from the dead. For, in doing so, we can now experience victory in Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). Those who are victors in Christ Jesus are, according to Peter, “begotten...to a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3). This is identified as concerning “an inheritance” (1 Peter 1:4).

I want you to just imagine being the child of the wealthiest person to ever live on this earth. You would live with an anticipation that you would receive all of that wealth and those possessions as an

inheritance one day. And, you would certainly not want to do anything to make your father angry with you (in fear of being cut off from that inheritance).

Now, I want you to consider that whatever earthly wealth would be included in this inheritance, it pales in comparison with the inheritance that God will give to those who are His children! Even the wealthiest man to ever live only has a relatively small percentage of what can be had or experienced on this earth. But, God is the one who has created the entire universe! For instance, even when King Solomon built a magnificent temple for God out of the most precious and valuable things on this earth (i.e. silver and gold), listen to the conclusion stated in Acts 7:48-50. “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: ‘Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?’”

Incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading

Can you just imagine receiving an inheritance from this Father who is the Creator of the universe? Surely, there is nothing that has ever compared or will ever compare! And, the best inheritances from a physical father only last for a short while. Soon, the heir dies and leaves the remainder of the inheritance to another.

But, the inheritance that God will give to those who are His children never ends or diminishes over time. Listen to how Peter described this inheritance in 1 Peter 1:4. It is “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away.” The best of what we can enjoy on this earth does eventually end or ruin over time. Money gets spent. Houses break down. Automobiles rust. We become discontented and unsatisfied with physical things over time. And, we get separated from everything physical whenever we die. But, this is not so with God’s inheritance! God will give His children such a wonderful inheritance that it will truly last forever. And, even after we have enjoyed the inheritance for a million years, it will still be as fresh and as wonderful as it was on day 1!

This is why Jesus has told us to store up treasures in Heaven rather than on the earth. Matthew 6:19-21 says, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” As pilgrims journeying through our earthly lives, we should never settle for the treasures of this land as we pass through because they are more convenient for us at the moment or seem to be pleasurable right now! These treasures will simply not last very long. Instead, Christian pilgrims must recognize that there is a much greater treasure that is just over the horizon – a treasure that will never diminish! We just have to make it up the rugged mountainside in order to reach it.

We Have Reservations In Heaven

Up to this point, we have been generically discussing the inheritance that faithful Christians will receive. And, if this was all that we knew about our hope, it would be more than sufficient to anchor our souls through the storms and current of life. But, we have actually been given much more information than this. You should recognize where Peter says that our inheritance is. Once again, 1 Peter 1:4 says, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” Therefore, all those who are children of God have reservations made for them in Heaven! So, we should consider this place that the Bible calls “Heaven” and the reward that is promised to the faithful. For the purposes of this study, we will be primarily looking at Revelation 20-22.

What will not be in Heaven

Part of the hope of Heaven is to recognize what will be missing in Heaven. Typically, we don't think of things that are missing as being a blessing. But, there are some things that will be missing from

Heaven that will make it worth all of the struggles and hardships to get there!

First, there will be no tears, sorrow, crying, pain, or death in Heaven. Revelation 21:4 says, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

No more crying because someone hurt you! No more tears shed over divorce or breakups! No more tears when you learn that someone you love has been hurt or diagnosed with a terrible disease! No more tears shed because of murders, natural disasters, and famines! No more crying because you have been laid off or fired and are unsure how you will take care of your family! No more pain that is inflicted by those who hate Christians! No more pain caused by automobile accidents! No more pain that is caused by the diseases that afflict us on this earth! No more pain that is brought about by getting older! No more standing by caskets, visiting graveyards, and consoling those who are grieving! No more knowledge and concern about a future death! All of these things are present on this earth during our pilgrimage, but will not have a part (not even a small part) in our Heavenly home!

Second, there will be no evil. Revelation 21:27 says, “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.”

No more suffering because people treat us in wicked ways! No more being ridiculed! No more be abused! No more lies! No more adultery! No more deception! No more murder! No more thefts! No more intoxication! No more envy or jealousy! No more greed! No more bitterness! No more anxiety! No more hatred! No more gossip! No more selfishness! No more divisions! No more strife! No more filthy language! All of these things are present on this earth during our pilgrimage, but will not have a part (not even a small part) in our Heavenly home!

Who will not be in Heaven

Not only will these *things* not be present in Heaven, but the ones who have died practicing those

wicked things will not be there either. So, as you consider the magnificent inheritance that is reserved for you, you should take comfort in the fact that those who have lived for such wicked things will not be in your company throughout eternity!

First, the devil and his angels will not be in Heaven. Revelation 20:10 says, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Matthew 25:41 also makes reference to what Jesus will say to the wicked on the Judgment Day, “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

No more trying to decide whether something is right or wrong! No more trying to properly navigate through the devil’s deceptions and temptations! No more being on guard for the next attack levied against us by the devil and his angels! No more having the people around us being used by the devil to pull us away from God! No more suffering that is caused by the devil and his associates! All of these are present on this earth during our pilgrimage, but will not have a part (not even a small part) in our Heavenly home!

Second, those who have served the devil will not be in Heaven. Revelation 20:15 says, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Similarly, Revelation 21:8 says, “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

No more heartache caused by those who treat you in wicked ways! No more sorrow over seeing others engage in wickedness! No more pain inflicted by those who are selfish! No more being mistreated! No more murders, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, liars, idolaters, etc.! All of these are present on this earth during our pilgrimage, but will not have a part (not even a small part) in our Heavenly home! Now, on this point, I also want to add this note: Remember that God will wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:4). So, in some way, God will help us *not* be

sorrowful for our loved ones who have not made it to Heaven!

What will be in Heaven

The things and people who will *not* be in Heaven will help Heaven to be a much better place than what we are currently experiencing on this earth. But, Heaven is not just about what will be missing. It is also about what will be present!

First, consider the beauty of Heaven that is depicted in Revelation chapter 21. As you consider these vivid symbolic descriptions, it is well identified as the “Paradise of God” in Revelation 2:7! Her beauty is described as the beauty of “a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:2). Heaven is described in the text as: Having the “glory of God” (21:11), having a light like a precious jasper stone that is clear as crystal (21:11), having a great and high wall with twelve gates and twelve angels at the gates (21:12), and having twelve foundations with the names of the twelve apostles on them (21:14). It is said to be laid out as a cube – 12,000 furlongs (about 1,500 miles) in each direction (length, width, and height) (21:16). The wall around the Heavenly city was measured to be 144 cubits high (about 218 feet) (21:17). The wall is said to be constructed with jasper and the city was pure gold, like clear glass (21:18). Each of the twelve foundations of the wall are said to be made with a precious stone (i.e. jasper, sapphire, emerald, etc.) (21:19-20). The twelve gates are said each to be a pearl (21:21). The street in the city is said to be of pure gold, like transparent glass (21:21).

As you think about all of this great beauty of Heaven, I believe we should conclude that it is all figurative language. After all, there will be nothing physical in Heaven (see 1 Corinthians 15:50) and the book of Revelation was written in figurative language with signs and symbols. But, this does not *diminish* the beauty of Heaven. Rather, it *enhances* it! For, this is the best that God can do to convey the beauty of Heaven to our earthly minds. The reality will, I believe, be much better than even this!

Second, consider that the tree of life will be in Heaven. Revelation 22:1-3 says, “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal,

proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.”

The tree of life that was taken away from Adam and Eve when they were cast out of the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 3:22-24) reappears in Heaven! Whenever man was separated from this tree, all kinds of death and suffering came into this earth. But, in Heaven, we will enjoy a true paradise prepared by God and have access to this tree (at least figuratively speaking) so that we can live forever in this place!

Who will be in Heaven

I have saved the best for last. Heaven is not just about the *things* that will be present. It is also about those who we will be sharing Heaven with – and One stands far above all the rest!

First, all the saints will be in Heaven. Revelation 22:14-15 says, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”

No one who is wicked will be in Heaven. It is a place prepared by Jesus Christ and reserved for those who serve God faithfully throughout their lives. This includes both the angels (and other Heavenly beings) who have faithfully served God and men and women who have been faithful to God on earth. These will be our neighbors in Heaven!

Second, God will be in Heaven. Revelation 21:22-23 says, “But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.” Revelation 22:3-5 says, “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need

no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”

This will be the single greatest part of living in Heaven. We will have the opportunity to see God in His full glory throughout all eternity! We will be able to unendingly worship God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! We will never be separated from Him again! And, He will provide everything for us that we need!

Looking To The End

This is the wonderful inheritance that is reserved for us in Heaven and kept by the power of God if we will be faithful to Him unto death (1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 2:10). So, as Peter encouraged the Christians he was writing the 1 Peter letter to, we must recognize that during our pilgrimage on earth, our faith is being put to the test in order to see if it is genuine. In fact, our faith may even be severely tested (“tested by fire,” 1 Peter 1:7). But, we must keep our focus on the end result we have been studying about throughout this lesson in order to properly respond to the challenges of life.

Do not focus on things that are seen

Far too often, people become Christians and start on their pilgrimage through the rest of their earthly lives only to become distracted by the things that are on this earth. However, the apostle Paul (in using the illustration of a soldier) said, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier” (2 Timothy 2:3-4).

The apostle Paul certainly knew what he was talking about – from experience and through inspiration. Even though the apostle Paul experienced great hardships during his life (even regarding persecution, read 2 Corinthians 11:22-33), he kept his focus on the things that were not seen. In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, he wrote, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day

by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Focus on things that are not seen

Just a few verses later, in 2 Corinthians 5:6-8, Paul said, “So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

We must keep our focus throughout our earthly lives on that which has been promised to those who are Christians! If we do, we will determine to live the kind of holy lives that Peter instructed in 1 Peter 1:13-16. As Christian pilgrims, we must be diligent to stay away from all of the fleshly lusts that war against our souls (1 Peter 2:11-12). We must not be like soldiers who enlist for battle and then live carefree civilian-like lives! Instead, we must stay focused on the task at hand in order to accomplish our missions.

Then, not only should we be focused on the promises God has made to us, but we should be longing for the end of our faiths, the inexpressible joy we will have when we experience the salvation of our souls in Heaven (1 Peter 1:8-9)! For instance, whenever Paul was imprisoned due to persecution, he considered that “to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). In fact, he said he had a “desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better” than remaining alive on this earth (Philippians 1:23)! Similarly, Peter told Christians that they should be “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,” they should “look for new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells,” and they should be “looking forward to these things” so that they will be “diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless” (2 Peter 3:11-14).

Conclusion

We should be longing for our Heavenly home! We should view our lives on this earth and everything about them (whether good or bad) as only being temporary. And, we must never sell our eternal Heavenly inheritance for the temporary treasures and pleasures on this earth. Therefore, as we face the storms and current of life, we must cast our anchors in Heaven and hold on throughout our lives!

Study Questions

What is the danger of getting caught up in the individual “moments” of your earthly life?

1. This World Is Not Our Home

How long do trials last?

How long do temptations last?

How long do persecutions last?

2. We Have A Living Hope

Why is Jesus Christ so crucial to your hope?

How are you encouraged to keep your focus off the things that are seen?

What is the significance of your inheritance being from God?

Why is it important to keep your focus on the things that are not seen?

How long will this inheritance last?

3. We Have Reservations In Heaven

What will not be in Heaven?

Who will not be in Heaven?

What will be in Heaven?

Who will be in Heaven?

4. Looking To The End