

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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CALVARY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2021

This is a theological article by J.I. Packer about Heaven. I believe you will be blessed. Take and Eat!
Pastor Charlie

Heaven God Will Welcome His People Into Everlasting Joy

(Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

(John 14:1-3)

Heaven, which in both Hebrew and Greek, is a word meaning "sky," is the Bible term for God's home (Psalm 33:13-14; Matthew 6:9) where his throne is (Psalm 2:4); the place of his presence to which the glorified Christ has returned (Acts 1:11); where the church militant and triumphant now unites for worship (Hebrews 12:22-25); and where one day Christ's people will be with their Savior forever (John 17:5, 24; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). It is pictured as a place of rest (John 14:2), a city (Hebrews 11:10), and a country (Hebrews 11:16). At some future point, at the time of Christ's return for judgment, it will take the form of a reconstructed cosmos (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

To think of heaven as a place is more right than wrong, though the word could mislead. Heaven appears in Scripture as a spatial reality that touches and interpenetrates all created space. In Ephesians, Paul locates in heaven both the throne of Christ at the Father's right hand (Ephesians 1:20) and the spiritual blessings and risen life in Christ of Christians (Ephesians 1:3; 2:6). "The heavenly realms" in Ephesians 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; and 6:12 is a literary variant for "heaven." Paul alludes to an experience in the "third heaven" or "paradise" (2 Corinthians 12:2, 4). No doubt the heaven of God's throne is to be distinguished from the heavenly

realms occupied by hostile spiritual powers (Ephesians 6:12). A resurrection body adapted to heaven's life awaits us (2 Corinthians 5:1-8), and in that body we shall see the Father and the Son (Matthew 5:8; 1 John 3:2). But while we are in our present bodies, the realities of heaven are invisible and ordinarily imperceptible to us, and we know them only by faith (2 Corinthians 4:18; 5:7). Yet the closeness to us of heaven and of its inhabitants, the Father, the Son, the Spirit, the holy angels, and the demonic spirits, must never be forgotten: for it is a matter of solid spiritual fact.

Scripture teaches us to form our notion of the life of heaven by (a) extrapolating from the less-than-perfect relationship that we now have with God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, with other Christians, and with created things to the thought of a perfect relationship, free from all limitation, frustration, and failure; (b) eliminating from our idea of a life lived for God all forms of pain, evil, conflict, and distress, such as we experience here on earth; and (c) enriching our imaginings of that happy future by adding in every conception of excellence and God-given enjoyment that we know. The visions of heaven's life in Revelation 7:13-17 and 21:1-22:5 draw on all three of these ways of conceiving it.

(continued on next page)

According to Scripture, the constant joy of heaven's life for the redeemed will stem from (a) their vision of God in the face of Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:4); (b) their ongoing experience of Christ's love as he ministers to them (Revelation 7:17); (c) their fellowship with loved ones and the whole body of the redeemed; (d) the continued growth, maturing, learning, enrichment of abilities, and enlargement of powers that God has in store for them. The redeemed desire all these things, and without them their happiness could not be complete. But in heaven there will be no unfulfilled desires.

There will be different degrees of blessedness and reward in heaven. All will be blessed up to the limit of what they can receive, but capacities will vary just as they do in this world. As for rewards (an area in which present irresponsibility can bring permanent future loss: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15), two points must be grasped. The first is that when God rewards our works he is crowning his own gifts, for it was only by grace that those works were done. The second is that essence of the reward in each case will be more of what the Christian desires most, namely, a deepening of his or her love-relationship with the

Savior, which is the reality to which all the biblical imagery of honorific crowns and robes and feasts is pointing. The reward is parallel to the reward of courtship, which is the enriching of the love-relationship itself through marriage.

So the life of heavenly glory is a compound of seeing God in and through Christ and being loved by the Father and the Son, of rest (Revelation 14:13) and work (Revelation 7:15), of praise and worship (Revelation 7:9-10; 19:1-5), and of fellowship with the Lamb and the saints (Revelation 19:6-9).

Nor will it end (Revelation 22:5). Its eternity is part of its glory; endlessness, one might say, is the glory of glory.

*Hearts on earth say in the course
of a joyful experience,
"I don't want this ever to end."
But it invariably does.*

*The hearts of those in heaven say,
"I want this to go on forever."
And it will.
There can be no better news than this.*

Church Updates

Many discussions have taken place on how to move forward with activities and events at the church, with still keeping the need to be careful for everyone's well-being.

The Sunday worship service is at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. We strongly encourage everyone to please wear a face mask out of consideration for one another. There is plenty of seating space in order to practice physical distancing.

The sermon will continue to be recorded and posted on-line for all to view:

Visit the church website (www.cpcbaldwin.com - click on "YouTube") and also streamed on YouTube at (www.youtube.com - search for Calvary Church, Baldwin, NY).

Children's Church is held during the service. The children are dismissed just before the sermon and meet in the fellowship room. On the first Sunday of each month (when Communion is scheduled) Children's Church will not be in session.

The Wednesday Night Bible Study meets at the church at 7:00 p.m. The men and women are having a topical discussion on anxiety, and also have a time of prayer.

The Ladies Bible Study meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Patti Senita's home. They are continuing their study of the book of Acts.

The most current information is sent out weekly in the Friday e-mail communications. If you have not been receiving any e-mails from the church, please let us know and we will gladly add you to the list.

SPECIAL NOTE: Within the last couple of weeks there has been some issues with the Friday e-mails. At times an error is received after sending the communications, so then I will retry sending the e-mails a different way. Sometimes the e-mails are sent and you might receive duplicates. People have also said that the church e-mails are going into their "Spam" folder. If you haven't been receiving the church communications, check that folder and mark the church e-mails as "not spam." I apologize for any inconvenience. Hopefully the issues will resolve itself shortly.

SENIORS LUNCHEON

The seniors have been anxious to meet together again, so plans are moving forward for a Seniors Luncheon to be held **Tuesday, October 5th**, at 12:00 noon. The luncheon will be held in-person at the church. To be on the safe side, tables and chairs will be separated a bit.

The menu will include roast loin of pork, potatoes, a vegetable, and sweet treat for dessert.

We would greatly appreciate if you would call the church and let us know you are coming (516-223-4070). We look forward to seeing you.

Updating The Church Directory

It's time to update the Church Directory - Calvary's phone book for family and friends. Included are names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails, etc., plus other church related information.

If there are any recent changes to what is currently listed, or if you would like to be added to the directory, please contact the church and give your info to Sharon. You can call the church office (516-223-4070) or e-mail (calvarychurch@optonline.net).

Sayonara to Jeovanni and Daniele

A gathering was held on a recent Saturday to say farewell (for now) to Jeovanni and Daniele Nembhard as they are moving to Japan for a little while through a work visa.

For some time Jeo had wanted to go to Japan so he applied for the JET program (Japan Exchange and Teaching) which is a cultural exchange/teaching program. Within no time he was accepted into the program and started making plans with Daniele. He studied the Japanese language and looks forward to learning their culture first-



hand. Jeo will be assisting a Japanese teacher with English in a commercial/academic high school with primarily female students, but could have his own class as well. This position with the JET program is contracted yearly, with a maximum stay of five years. Their goal is to stay about two years.

Once Jeovanni and Daniele arrive in Japan, they need to quarantine for 14 days in a hotel. After that they will be moving to an apartment in the city of Miyazaki, which is located on an island in southern Japan. Only a small percentage of the population in Japan are considered Christians. The majority of the people live in a secular society. Japan is one of the least evangelized nations in the world.

Besides teaching, Jeo plans to do a little missions work by sharing God's love, and speaking of the hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. After settling in, Daniele plans to look for a job, possibly in the bakery industry.

Jeo said that Calvary Church has been an important part of his life. The church family will be praying for them during their journey and wishes them well. God bless, and see you in a couple of years!



Pictured above are the Nembhard and Lucchesi families - Paul (dad), Daniele, Jeo, Joshua, Barbara, Pastor Charlie, and Liam in the foreground

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BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

4th Samantha Hetzel
Schultz
6th Victoria Manuel
10th Barbara Corcoran
13th Vincent Elcock
15th Robert Brown Jr.
17th Stephanie Wong
18th Brett Rose
18th Eden Nembhard
21st Connor Watts
22nd Ellen Heneghan
23rd Barbara Jamison
25th Vickie Mandato
29th Ryan Waldvogel

NOVEMBER

2nd Charlie Hetzel Jr.
3rd Courtney Gross
3rd Lou Kelting
4th Ronnie Roddy Jr.
7th Sherry Valentine
8th Bridget Dowling
8th Paul Nembhard
9th Zavier Foster
9th Paula Kulla
12th Kirk Nehring
18th Roy Seymour
19th Shannon and Shelby
Verity
20th Florence Emeigh
20th Nadeline Sandoval-
Vallejos
22nd Barry Senita
27th Nicole Alcindor
28th Joe Waldvogel

**Happy
Birthday!**

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

2nd Howard & Maryann Brockway
8th Vincent & Rosemary Rotolo
10th Denis & Giselle Sandoval
12th Wes & Becky Carman
16th John & Lisa Conroy
16th Tony & Sarabeth DiCostanzo



NOVEMBER

5th Lou & Ree Kelting
13th Fred & Sherry Valentine
19th Bob & Diane Benedetto

Are you in the army?

After worship, a pastor was greeting the people when he noticed a man who only seemed to show up on Christmas and Easter. The pastor decided to challenge the fellow. "I notice that I only see you at church on Christmas and Easter. I think you need to join the army of the Lord."

With a firmness in his voice, the man answered, "I'm already in the army of the Lord, pastor. I'm in the Secret Service."