

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

THE RELEVANCE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

Sixty-five-year-old Thelma sat in the waiting room fidgeting ¶1
with the magazine in her lap. Her husband of over forty-
eight years chatted quietly with a patient next to him, who
was also waiting to see the doctor.

“Mrs. Milner?” the nurse called, “The doctor will see ¶2
you now.” Thelma and her husband made their way to an
examination room.

“Good to see you again, Thelma,” the doctor said in a ¶3
cheery voice as he entered. “You too, Mr. Milner.” The
doctor made his way to a chair and opened the file folder in
his hand.

“Well, there is no easy way to say this Thelma,” the ¶4
doctor said in a serious tone. “The tests confirm you are in
the first stages of Alzheimer’s Disease.”

Thelma’s hand instinctively went to her mouth as she ¶5
let out a slight groan. Her husband grimaced as he placed his
arm around his stunned wife.

For the next fifteen years, one of the longest cases ¶6
ever, Thelma’s family watched as her body, mind, and all

traces of memory were ravaged by the deadly disease of Alzheimer's. A once beautiful and vibrant woman was reduced to nothing more than skin and bones. Finally, unable to eat, speak, or respond to the voice and touch of loved ones, Thelma gasped her last breath and was gone, leaving behind a grieving family.

Like the Milner family, all of us will at some point ¶7
suffer the loss of a loved one. The emptiness and suffering from the death of a loved one is real and at times feels almost unbearable. And while the comfort from loved ones and the passing of time dulls the pain, the reality is death robs people of the ones they love.

It is understandable that death is a scary thought, even ¶8
to many Christians. Job described it as “the king of terrors” (Job 18:14). Even when we do talk about death, we use euphemisms to soften or disguise the harsh reality. We prefer terms such as “passed away,” “went to sleep,” or “went to be with the Lord.”

Why, exactly, do we fear death? There are at least ¶9
five reasons.

1. *Death is mysterious and unknown.* It is normal to ¶10
fear the unknown. There is often a great deal of
apprehension because we don't know exactly what
to expect. And death poses the greatest of all
unknowns.

2. *We have to face death alone.* If we could join ¶11
together and face the unknown mysteries of death
in a group, perhaps it would be easier to bear the
thought of it. But we cannot. We must travel alone
into that dark night.

3. *We are separated from our loved ones.* Like the ¶12
Milner family, death robs us of the ones closest to
us. And some may even question whether we will
ever meet them again.

4. *Our personal hopes and dreams will not be* ¶13
realized. When we die, our goals die with us. We
cannot continue to build our dreams. Death ends
the best of our plans.

5. *Death is unavoidable.* Even with today's scientific ¶14
advances that extend the length of our lives, all of
us will die. No one can escape the inevitability of
death.ⁱ

While all of this is true, there is still a significant ¶15
consolation. As Christians we can experience freedom from
the fear of death. The relevance of Jesus' bodily resurrection
not only assures that our sins are atoned for, but that we will
also live again. So will our loved one if he or she has placed
their trust in Christ.

Freedom from Fear Because Death Has Been Conquered

When Jesus' close friends Mary and Martha lost their ¶16
brother, he told them, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die like
everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for
believing in me and will never perish" (John 11:25-26).
Because Jesus is our resurrected Lord, we will be God's
resurrected children. "and now [God] has made all of this

plain to us by the coming of Christ Jesus, our Savior, who broke the power of death and showed us the way of everlasting life” (2 Timothy 1:10).

Yes, death is inevitable and so we all must die. But ¶17
death isn't permanent for those who have trusted Christ.
“Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man. But all who are related to Christ, the other man, will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised” (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).
While we are justified, declared righteous and adopted as God's children in this life, we have yet to gain the full rights of our adoption. Paul said that “what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later...for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved” (Romans 8:23-24) That is the added relevance of Christ's resurrection. Not only are we forgiven of our sins and made right with God, but we inherit a body

that will live forever.

New bodies. Bodies that won't suffer pain, endure hardships, or wear out. That is our future inheritance. ¶18

“Someone may ask, ‘How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will we have?’ ...Our earthly bodies, which die and decay, will be different when they are resurrected, for they will never die. Our bodies now disappoint us, but when they are raised, they will be full of glory. They are weak now, but when they are raised, they will be full of power. They are natural bodies now, but when they are raised, they will be spiritual bodies...Every human being has an earthly body just like Adam's, but our heavenly bodies will be just like Christ's” (1 Corinthians 15:35, 42-44, 48).

That is certainly a truth to be embraced and look forward to. Peter called it our “priceless inheritance.” “Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay” (1 Peter 1:3-4). This priceless inheritance is a state of being in which each of us will be given “full rights” to a transformed, ¶19

heavenly body to live where “there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain” (Revelation 21:4). This means we will have perfect bodies in a perfect world. Yet for that to happen Paul said, “our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die” (1 Corinthians 15:53). And that can, and will, happen to the redeemed because Jesus rose from the grave.

Jesus made it clear that “God so loved the world that ¶20 he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). But when does that eternal life begin? When do we get our resurrected bodies? Do our loved ones in Christ have them already? And, do we get our “new bodies he has promised us” immediately upon our own death? Or, do we have to wait in the grave or somewhere else until Christ returns to get a resurrection body?

The Timing of our Resurrection

Jesus said, “There are many rooms in my Father’s ¶21 home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I

will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am” (John 14:2-3). So it’s clear Jesus plans to come back to get his followers. Paul the apostle said that Christ “has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Jesus is the first one to receive a spiritual body, all those who trust in him are next in line to get theirs. “Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised” (1 Corinthians 15:23).

Scripture makes clear there is an order or timing to the resurrection of believers. ¶22 “Let me tell you a wonderful secret God has revealed to us.” Paul says, “Not all of us will die, but we will all be transformed. It will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; also see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The order is clear, Christ was raised first and he ascended into Heaven. When he returns, the dead in Christ will be raised with new bodies and those Christians who

remain alive will receive their new bodies as well.

This naturally raises a question: “If we don’t get our ¶23
spiritual bodies until Jesus returns are God’s children
consciously existing without bodies? And if so where? Some
say that they are simply “asleep” and will remain in an
unconscious state until the return of Christ. Since Paul
makes reference to those “who have fallen asleep in him” (1
Thessalonians 4:14) and other such passages that use a
similar language (see 1 Thessalonians 5:10; Matthew 9:24;
John 11:11) some believe we go into a “soul sleep.” They
say that those in Christ that are “sleeping” will be awakened
at the resurrection and receive new bodies.

However, most evangelicals consider the “fallen ¶24
asleep” phrases in scripture as euphemisms for death that
describes the body’s outward appearance. The physical body
is “sleeping” until the resurrection, while our non-physical
souls enjoy a conscious existence with the Lord. The Old
Testament declares “You were made from dust, and to the
dust you will return” (Genesis 3:19) and “For then the dust
will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who
gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

But is this actually a conscious spirit existence with ¶25
God even before we are bodily resurrected? Yes. Jesus told
the dying thief on the cross, “I assure you, today you will be
with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). Obviously, the thief
wouldn’t be getting his spiritual body until Christ returned,
yet Jesus said he would be with him. Paul said he preferred
“to be absent from the body and to be at home with the
Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8, NASB). Reference in Revelation
to humans prior to the resurrection of the dead all depict
them as conscious souls.

So when Christians die, they enter into what ¶26
theologians refer to as an “intermediate state.” This is
considered a transitional existence after death; yet prior to
Christ’s return when a believer is bodily resurrected. This is
often referred to as “going to Heaven.” But as we will
discuss in later chapters there is a difference between an
intermediate Heaven and the eternal Heaven on earth (see
Chapters 25 and 26).

But if our souls are with the Lord in an intermediate ¶27
Heaven prior to the resurrection of the dead, do we function
as physical human beings? These are issues that scripture

simply doesn't elaborate on in detail. Yet some theologians like Randy Alcorn have ventured out to say, "Given the consistent physical description of the intermediate Heaven and those who dwell there, it seems possible—though this is certainly debatable—that between our earthly life and our bodily resurrection, God may grant us some physical form that will allow us to function as human beings while in that unnatural state 'between bodies,' awaiting our resurrection."ⁱⁱ

Because He Lives

Because of Christ's resurrection and the promises he ¶28
has made to us, our fear of death can be lifted. Because he
lives...

- The Mystery of Death is Revealed ¶29

Yes death is mysterious and unknown, but
after the resurrection of Jesus, we know something
about it that we could not have known before. It is
not permanent. Christ went through it, and he
blazed a trail that we can follow. Some of the

mystery has been removed because we now have footprints to follow that we know will lead us into new life.

- We Don't Have to Face Death Alone ¶30

Although from our perspective it may seem that we have to go through death alone, we now know this is an illusion. The death and resurrection of Jesus shows that this promise is not empty. Christ has actually stepped into the darkness of death and awaits us there to lead us safely through.

- We Are Not Permanently Separated from Our Loved Ones ¶31

The resurrection calms this fear as well. Because God has conquered death through Jesus Christ, our loving relationships will continue after death. Death may separate us temporarily from our loved ones, but the resurrection of Christ will bring us back together.

- Our Personal Hopes and Dreams Have a Future ¶32

The resurrection also does away with this fear.

In fact, it would be more accurate to say that in heaven all our hopes and dreams will be fulfilled.

- Death is Unavoidable, Yet Is a Transition to Eternal Life ¶33

It's true that death is inevitable and no one can escape it. But because of Christ's resurrection, death is simply the passage to our eternal home in heaven.ⁱⁱⁱ

While there may not be answers to all our questions, ¶34
this one thing is certain: We are guaranteed a “priceless inheritance” that includes a resurrected spiritual body that will live forever with the Lord and our loved ones. And that is possible because Jesus conquered death and rose from the grave. And while we may not have all our questions answered about our future bodies and home in Heaven, God has revealed “a taste” of what it will be like. Paul says:

“The wisdom we speak of is the secret wisdom of ¶35
God...That is what the Scriptures means when they
say,

‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no ¶36
mind has imagined what God has prepared for
those who love him.’

But we know these things because God has revealed ¶37
them to us by his Spirit, and his Spirit searches out
everything and shows us even God’s deep secrets” (1
Corinthians 2:7, 9-10).

God has revealed to his adopted children “a taste” of ¶38
what an eternal relationship with him will be like. God has
revealed himself through his Spirit and His Word so that as
Jesus said, “My joy may be in you and that your joy may be
complete” (John 15:11). He wants us to sense the joy of
what Heaven and eternity will be like. He wants us to
anticipate what it will be like to live with him for eternity in
a place where there is no sin or heartache. As a loving father
and mother desires to fill their child with an anticipation of a
vacation or trip to Disney World, so our heavenly Father

wants to see our hearts filled with joy of what awaits us. One day Jesus will conquer the death of your loved ones, as well as your eventual death to bring you into a place of completed joy beyond compare. At that point death will be “swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54). As a Christian, your resurrection is an assured reality. Because of Christ’s resurrection your eternal relationship with God and with your loved ones in Heaven is guaranteed. You are destined for an eternal future of bliss. Anticipate what is to come and be excited!

Practical Examples of Living out the Truth of Your Future Resurrection

If you have trusted in Christ as your Redeemer, your ¶39
bodily resurrection is assured and you will live forever. But how is your anticipation of that future life to affect your life now? Paul says, “Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God’s right hand in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth” (Colossians 3:1-2).

But is it realistic to sit around and anticipate a perfect ¶40
life in Heaven? There are things to do, places to go,
obligations to fulfill. Think about it, your life and mine is
consumed with earthly concerns. What am I going to eat
today? How am I going to pay all these bills? When am I
going to get another raise? Who am I going to marry? How
do I keep this marriage relationship together? When are we
going to have kids? Who's watching the kids? What are they
getting into anyway?

We are all flooded with a million things at once, most ¶41
of them about earthly things – college, marriage, raising a
family, retirement. Yet Jesus said, “Don't store up treasures
here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get
rusty...store your treasures in heaven... Wherever your
treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be... So I
tell you, don't worry about everyday life—whether you have
enough food, drink and clothes... Why be like the pagans
who are so deeply concerned about these things? Your
heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will
give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and
make the Kingdom of God your primary concern” (Matthew

6:19-21, 25, 31-33).

Jesus was telling us to live for another world, not this ¶42
one, but his Kingdom world. We need to “let heaven fill our
thoughts.” We need to anticipate our future bodies in a
future world. That needs to be where we place our
priorities—our treasures—because where our priorities are
that is where our hearts and thoughts will be.

Don’t think only about things down here on earth. Let ¶43
heaven fill your thoughts. Store your treasures up there.
Don’t worry about everyday life. Make the Kingdom your
primary concern. What does all that really mean? How do
we live in anticipation of the resurrection and not make this
life such a big priority?

I (Sean) remember how my thought process and ¶44
entire life changed after meeting this stunning girl named
Stephanie. Yes, I was struck by her beauty, but it was more
than that. She was smart and funny and had a great
personality. She liked a lot of the same things I liked and the
truth was I wanted to be with her all the time. When I was at
work I thought about her. When I was in school I thought
about her. When I was at home I thought about her. I

couldn't get her out of my mind because she had made a place in my heart.

It seemed that every waking moment this woman ¶45
captivated my thoughts. There was more to my intrigue than I could really understand. There was a mystery to this consuming passion of mine. I knew her and yet I didn't, so I wanted to know her more. I wanted to know her on a level I had never really experienced with anyone else before.

Because, I was in love!

After Stephanie and I married, the love affair ¶46
deepened. And in fact our togetherness created a home of our own. While we could spend a lot of time together I still had to be away at times. Not in a bad way, but Stephanie was jealous of my time. She didn't like me being away. She became a little jealous when I was at work or at the seminary too long. At times I had to travel for a speaking engagement. Of course, I would email her and even call her. But it wasn't the same. She missed me and wanted me home. And, I liked it that she did. I missed her too. I missed that place of emotional security and relational intimacy that existed in my love life with the person of my dreams.

That is a little of what it means to set our “sights on ¶47
the realities of heaven.” It’s not a matter of sitting around
pining away and hoping for the day we’re dead and in
heaven. It means our priorities, our interests, and our
devotion is placed in another world with another person—
Jesus. And when we get too focused on earthly things, he
gets jealous.

The disciple James made it clear. He wrote, “If your ¶48
aim is to enjoy this world, you can’t be a friend of God.
What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that
the Holy Spirit, whom God placed within us, jealously longs
for us to be faithful?” (James 4:4-5) Jesus said, “No one can
serve two masters. For you will hate the one and love the
other, or be devoted to one and despise the other (Matthew
6:24). And when we give our devotion, our undivided heart
to earthly things Jesus gets jealous.

Stephanie wanted me to think about her while I was ¶49
away just like I wanted her to think about me. And she
would have been seriously offended if another woman
captured my thoughts and heart – as she should. But isn’t it
humbling to think that Jesus is jealous if our hearts and

thoughts are on earthly things rather than on him and our home with him? He wants “Heaven to fill our thoughts.” He wants for us to keep him as our priority. He wants us to long after him as we long after our earthly lovers and our home with them.

Living for our future homes with new bodies in the presence of Jesus isn’t about day dreaming day in and day out. It’s about what kind of treasures we are building and where our priorities are in this life. Paul talked about those whose “god is their appetite,”—their earthly pleasures—
“and all they think about is this life here on earth” (Philippians 3:19). But we who are spiritually resurrected in Christ, are not about building earthly kingdoms and living our life for the pleasures that this world can give. Rather “we are citizens of heaven,” Paul says, “where the Lord Jesus lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take these weak mortal bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer everything, everywhere” (Philippians 3:20-21). Our focus on our future doesn’t take us out of this world, it simply keeps us here ¶50

with the right focus—a godly focus.

Jesus prayed for his disciples by saying to his Father, ¶51
“I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but keep them safe from the evil one. They are not part of this world any more than I am. Make them pure and holy by teaching them your words of truth” (John 17:15-17). Living in this world with our hearts in the next world does involve us being engaged in this world, yet we are engaged in God’s business in this world—living out his truth and building up his kingdom. C.S. Lewis said it well: “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most about the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: Aim at earth and you will get neither.”^{iv}

King David, who was a man after God’s own heart, ¶52

ruled the nation of Israel well and accomplished much on earth. While his heart was fixed on God, he still obeyed his commands. In fact he did so because his thoughts were on God. “I reflect at night on who you are O Lord,” David said, “and I obey your law because of this” (Psalm 119:55).

A Matter of Faith

Living in this world with our heart in the next doesn't ¶53
happen naturally. As we said, life with all its concerns tends to consume us. To “set your sights on the realities of heaven” and keep them there requires that we live by faith. “What is faith?” the Hebrew writer asks. “It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot see” (Hebrews 11:1). To maintain a Kingdom of Heaven mentality requires a “confidant assurance” that God is in control and that his promises are real and will be fulfilled.

“It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable ¶54
offering to God than Cain...It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying...It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family...It was by faith that Abraham

obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land...All these faithful ones died without receiving what God had promised them, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed the promise of God” (Hebrews 11:4, 5, 7, 8, 13). These faithful followers of God lived in the world, but they were not of this world. “They were no more than foreigners and nomads here on earth...But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them” (Hebrews 11:13, 16).

It is by faith that we endure hardship, trials, and ¶55 difficulties here on earth. It is by faith that we set our eyes and hearts on a future of joy after death. If you’ve lived very long, it’s clear that death puts a cold blanket on any plans for the future. You may enjoy a pet, like a dog or cat, but it dies. Its future is snuffed out and so is your joy. A grandmother or grandfather, a brother or sister, a husband or wife breathes their last and their future is no more. Joy is sapped from us. Death does that. It is only by faith that we see a future after death. It is only by faith that we can have joy in the face of tragedy or death. Because faith is trusting what the eyes

can't see.

Max Lucado speaks of what faith sees in his book ¶56

When God Whispers Your Name.

“Eyes see the prowling lion. Faith sees Daniel’s ¶57

angel.

Eyes see storms. Faith sees Noah’s rainbow.

Eyes see giants. Faith sees Canaan.

Your eyes see your faults. Your faith sees your

Savior.

Your eyes see your guilt. Your faith sees his blood.

Your eyes see your grave. Your faith sees a city

whose builder and maker is God.”^v

We are surrounded by a world that clamors for our ¶58

attention and attempts to draw our hearts in its direction. It is

a world of busyness that causes us to cope with life in all its

difficulties and troubles. That is the world we see. Our task

is to see yet another world invisible to the eye. It can only be

seen by faith. The Hebrew writer wraps up his great example

of people who longed for another country and saw it by faith

by saying:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge ¶59
crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off
every weight that slows us down, especially the sin
that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run
with endurance the race God has set before us. We do
this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith
depends from start to finish” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

“Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.” That’s the key. To ¶60
live in this world with a heart in the next requires a faith that
fixes our spiritual eyes on Jesus. He longs for us to long after
him. He wants us to be homesick for him. He wants us to
thirst after him. He wants us to be like King David who
prayed, “As the deer pants for streams of water, so I long for
you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I
come and stand before him” (Psalm 42:1-2). David goes on
to pray, “O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you.
My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this
parched and weary land where there is no water” (Psalm
63:1).

Take time this week to cultivate your longing and thirst for God and the home he is preparing for you. The more you spend time focused on him, the more life in this temporal world takes on an eternal perspective. The things that are real and lasting come into focus. When we keep our hearts in the next world we can experience true peace when this earthly world all around us is in turmoil. ¶61

Pastor and theologian Calvin Miller captures the secret to true peace as we see God through the power of his Holy Spirit. ¶62

God becomes visible to those who look for him in the right place. Therefore, no eye—no literal eye—can see him! No ear can hear him! No mind can conceive him! He hides his vastness only in the deepest dimensions of our inner existence. ¶63

The world around us is the world of “outer” relationships. In such outer places we make friends, achieve success—get on in the world! In this busy, worried world we have appointments, face disappointments, and force our ego-driven souls to stab at achieving power. On the surface of our lives, ¶64

things frenzied and dyspeptic dominate us. But in our hearts it is quite another matter.

First Corinthians 2:10 contains one little word ¶65 that lunges at us with challenge: “But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the *deep* things of God.”

Deep is the dwelling place of God. *Deep* is the ¶66 character of the ocean. Hold the metaphor for a moment and savor its lesson ahead of time. For deep is where the noisy, trashy surface of the ocean gets quiet and serene. No sound breaks the awesome silence of the ocean’s heart. Most Christians, however, spend their lives being whipped tumultuously through the surface circumstances of their days. Their frothy lifestyles mark the surface nature of their lives. Yet those who plumb the deep things of God discover true peace for the first time.^{vi}

Take time this week to “plumb the deep things of ¶67 God.” Spend time with his Word. Meditate on him and cultivate your longing for him. Let him know you hunger to

know him more deeply than ever. See him by faith in your new home of the future. Praise him in advance for the new body he will give you because of his resurrection. As you do you will gain a new perspective on this life and the things that really matter.

Take a moment to carefully read and meditate on the ¶68 words of the Psalmist David. He saw God through his eyes of faith. He lived on earth but his heart was in another world. He said:

“I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon ¶69 your power and glory.

Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself;
how I praise you!

I will honor you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer.

You satisfy me more than the richest of foods. I will praise you with songs of joy.

I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night.

I think how much you have helped me; I sing for joy

in the shadow of your protecting wings.

I follow close behind you; your strong right hand
holds me securely.” (Psalms 63:2-8)

“Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror, ¶70
but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.
All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but
then I will know everything completely, just as
God knows me now.” (1 Corinthians 13:12)

“Yes, dear friends, we are already God’s children, ¶71
and we can’t even imagine what we will be like when
Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes
we will be like him, for we will see him as he really
is. And all who believe this will keep themselves
pure, just as Christ is pure.” (1 John 3:2-3)

ⁱ Drawn from Josh McDowell, Sean McDowell, *Evidence for the Resurrection* (Ventura, CA: Regal Publishing, 2009), 57-58.

ⁱⁱ Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004), 57.

ⁱⁱⁱ Drawn from Josh McDowell, Sean McDowell, *Evidence for the Resurrection* (Ventura, CA: Regal Publishing, 2009), 64-66.

^{iv} C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York, NY: Collier Books, 1960), 118.

^v Max Lucado, *When God Whispers Your Name*, (Dallas, TX: Word Publishing, 1994), 101.

^{vi} Calvin Miller, *Into the Depths of God*, (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2000), 15.

CHAPTER NINETEEN