

Christ Community Presbyterian Church PCA
2310 Nursery Road
Clearwater, FL
(727) 530-1770
<http://ccpconline.org>
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Steve Jennings from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville
Citizens of Heaven
May 15, 2016

Philippians 3:19–21 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

“Next Sunday you are to talk about heaven. I am interested in that land because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over fifty-five years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price, but the donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot. For more than half a century I have been sending materials out of which the greatest architect and builder of the universe has been building a home for me which will never need to be remodeled nor repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations for they rest upon the rock of ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks nor bolts will ever be placed upon its doors for no vicious persons can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally without fear of being ejected...”

“I hope to hear your sermon on heaven next Sunday from my home in Los Angeles, California, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to heaven has no date marked for the journey, no return coupon and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am ready to go and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday evening, but I shall meet you there someday.”

Heaven Is a Prepared Place For a Prepared People. John 14:1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.

Heaven is a real place. Jesus came to earth from there. To that place He returned - in a human, physical body.

Heaven in a place of regeneration. Matthew 19:28 “Behold, I make all things new.”

Heaven will be a place of reunion. The Bible assures us of continual personal identity. Love’s goal is always to unite (Thomas Manton), but not to abolish distinction in so doing.

Heaven will be a place of reversal. Remember the dramatic turn-around for Hamaan (Esther 6 and 7). And for Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16). “God shows His contempt for the worth of this world’s goods by giving them abundantly to those He hates” (Edwards). The doctrine of justification contains an element of public vindication.

Heaven will be a place of reward. 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. The Bible teaches that we are saved by grace, but we will be judged according to works. Heaven is no egalitarian kingdom. All who reside there will be fully satisfied, but each will have differing capacities for realized blessing.

Heaven will be a place of rest. Revelation 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from

now on! 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors for their deeds follow with them.'"

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. The bride "makes herself ready" (Revelation 19:7). We have to ask if most people really do what to go there. "Set your mind on things above... set your affections on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God..." (Colossians 3:1)