

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Lifting Our Heads To The Heavenly Places

(Jerry Fite)

To say someone's head is in the clouds is usually not a compliment. Such a description depicts one who is oblivious to the important things surrounding or standing before him or her. Such a one is aloft in their own dream world, ill-equipped to handle the necessities of reality. We cry out to such a dysfunctional one, “Get your head out of the clouds, and come back to earth!”

While Christians are never to be dysfunctional on earth, God wants our minds to soar and focus upon the reality of the “heavenly places.” Such focus strengthens us spiritually as we engage the realities of life upon earth.

The Greek word “*eupouranios*” is a plural adjective used as a pronoun depicting that which *pertains to (epi) the heavens (ouranios)*. It is therefore translated “*heavenly places*,” with the plural word “places” properly inserted by the translators. More than once Paul lifts our minds to this region above us in the letter to the Ephesians.

In the heavenly places we see blessings that are spiritual in

nature. God has “*blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*” (*Ephesians 1:3*). God has blessed us with more than just the physical necessities of life. We need to cherish the spiritual blessings. We need to fathom that from heaven and in Christ we have been adopted as God's children (*Ephesians 1:5*), forgiven our trespasses (*Ephesians 1:7*) and enjoy the assurance of a heavenly inheritance (*Ephesians 1:13-14*). Knowing our past adoption, our present forgiveness and our future inheritance in heaven, we possess a sense of belonging to God that stabilizes us amidst the uncertainties of life.

God has also “*made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*” (*Ephesians 2:6*). Heaven is where Christ has been made to sit at God's exalted “*right hand*” (*Ephesians 1:20*). Imagine the power exhibited in raising one from the dead. God raised Jesus from the dead for Christ to sit above all authority. God raised us from sin's spiritual death and made us to sit victoriously with Christ.

The church takes on great importance when we realize that

“*...unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God*” (*Ephesians 3:10*). While there are principalities and authoritative powers ruling on earth (*Titus 3:1*), there is also a hierarchy of angels in the heavenly places. Angels, desiring to investigate our salvation, learned by seeing the church come to existence how God was to reconcile all men unto Him in “one body,” the “church” (*1 Peter 1:12, Ephesians 2:16, Ephesians 1:22-23*).

Paul reminds us that we need to put on the whole armor of God “*for our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*” (*Ephesians 6:12*). While our battles for truth may involve a flesh and blood foe, we need to remember that the foe continuing to stand against truth has first compromised with the Devil and has given in to his deception. Keep armed with the word of truth, knowing your true foe. After lifting our heads up for a moment unto the heavenly places, may we come back to earth, inspired and engaged!