

MR. MOODY'S BIBLE CLASS

A Twelve-Part Study in the Doctrines of the Christian Faith

by

Dwight Lyman Moody

Mr. Moody's Bible Class" was a special feature published in *The Ladies' Home Journal*, a popular women's magazine of the 1890s. For twelve months beginning in November 1896, evangelist D.L. Moody published Bible studies that defined the principles of the Christian faith and encouraged readers to engage in daily Scripture reading.

Mr. Moody designed these studies for both individual reflection and group discussion. Whether you're studying alone or with others, take time to read the Scripture passages referenced and answer the reflection questions honestly before God.

These studies are ideal for personal devotions, small group Bible studies, Sunday school classes, or anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of foundational Christian doctrine.

The Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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LESSON TWELVE

OUR HEAVENLY HOME

OUR HEAVENLY HOME

A few years ago a man whom I knew lost his only child, and the sorrow almost broke his heart. He had never given much serious thought to a future life, but after his child was taken he was continually found studying his Bible. Someone asked him what he was doing, and he said he was trying to find out about the place where his boy had gone.

Like that father, every member of this Bible class has doubtless loved someone who has joined the citizens of Heaven, and yearns to know definitely of the future—what there is beyond the brief span of life in this world and earth's experiences.

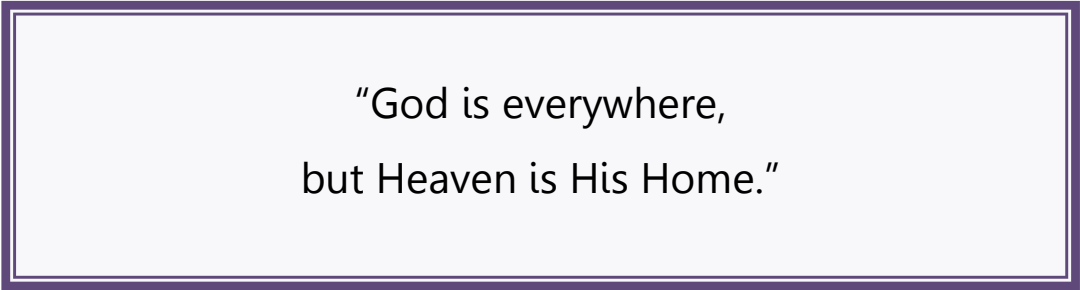
WHAT IS THE EXACT LOCATION OF HEAVEN?

Perhaps the first question that presents itself regarding Heaven is its location. For my part, I am not satisfied with the vagueness that describes my future home as everywhere and nowhere.

I read that the Master promised His Disciples an abode in His Father's mansions, where He was going to prepare them a place (John 14:2),

and in Revelation the Apostle John described the wondrous beauties of the City of God. (Revelation 21:15-21) The Evangelist Luke tells us that Christ ascended from the little group of His Disciples as they followed Him out toward Bethany, and that while they stood gazing up into Heaven two messengers appeared to cheer them with the promise of His coming again. (Acts 1:10-11)

And so it is with the child of God: when the earthly pilgrimage is over, the soul ascends to those mansions which Christ has gone on before to prepare for those who love Him.



"God is everywhere,
but Heaven is His Home."

The location of Heaven is not an important matter. Christ said very little about its situation, but a great deal about its being with God. To be sure, God is everywhere, but Heaven is His home; it is the "Father's house." It is not the homestead that makes home the most attractive place on earth, but it is those who live there. And so it will be with Heaven.

WHERE ALL HUMAN LONGINGS ARE SATISFIED

A little girl was stricken down with a fever, and for many days and nights the mother watched by the child's crib, doing all in her power to soothe the little one. The day came at last when the doctor gave up all hope and told the mother that her child could not live.

The mother took the little one in her arms and began to tell her about that city she was so soon to see. She told her of the golden streets and gates of pearl, and the river of life proceeding from the throne of God. But the child only cried and said, "I'm too tired, mother, and I don't care to see all those things."

Then the mother told her of the beautiful music she should soon hear, and how the angels are ever singing praises to the Lord with instruments of wondrous sweetness. And again the child interrupted her and said, "Oh, mother, I'm too tired to hear all that beautiful music."

The poor, disappointed mother gathered the little one still closer to her, and the child exclaimed, "That is what I want. Do you think Christ will take me in His arms and let me rest?"

"Yes, my child," sobbed the mother, "He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them." (Isaiah 40:11)

And with that promise the child soon fell asleep, to awaken refreshed and strengthened in the presence of a loving Saviour.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WE LOVE IN HEAVEN

And we shall meet again in Heaven with loved ones who are there awaiting our coming. Some people question whether we shall recognize those whom we shall meet. I have no doubt of it. I think the Scriptures make it very plain.

Certainly on the Mount of Transfiguration neither Moses nor Elias had lost their identity, although they had been with the Lord many centuries. They were still Moses and Elias, and were recognized by the three Apostles. (Matthew 17:1-8)

And in the Gospel of Saint Matthew Christ says, “That many shall come from the East and West, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 8:11)

“To every individual will be given responsibilities
and rewards, according to the service
rendered here on earth.”

To every individual will also be given responsibilities and rewards, according to the service rendered here on earth, and although we shall lay aside our mortal bodies, we shall have immortal bodies, “fashioned like unto His glorious body.” (Philippians 3:21)

The Son of Man has promised that to him who overcometh shall be given to partake of the hidden manna, and a new name “which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it;” and his name shall be found in the Book of Life. (Revelation 2:17; 3:5)

For my part I confidently expect to enjoy, in a life without end, the friendships so suddenly interrupted here on earth, where all can see and know alike in the full light of God's holy truth.

WILL THE SOCIETY OF HEAVEN BE EXCLUSIVE?

I do not agree with those who declare that Heaven will be open to all. While I thank God that He has not appointed us judges of our fellow men, I clearly understand the Bible to teach that there are those who will be left outside that holy city when their lives here are ended. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) A friend told me not long ago of a young lady who argued herself into the belief that God would never close the gates of Heaven against a human soul.

This young lady was entertaining a little niece one day by telling her the story of the “babes in the wood.” As she finished the story the child asked anxiously, “And did the children go to Heaven?”

“Yes, my dear,” replied the aunt.

“And what became of the wicked uncles?” asked the child.

“Well, I suppose, God took them to Heaven too.”

“But, won't they kill the babes again?” anxiously asked the little one.

The practical nature of the question was too much for the aunt's philosophy, and the very impossibility of such a moral order under a righteous God appeared to her as it never had before.

THE GREATEST THINGS IN INDIVIDUAL LIVES

I feel that there is not enough teaching about Heaven among us. There is nothing that so changes our estimation of earthly possessions as

becoming familiar with the life and surroundings which we shall enjoy through eternity.

Did you ever notice that a person will almost always let you know in a short conversation where he is laying up treasures? One lives for art, and gathers about him the most costly and expensive treasures that appeal to his taste; another has made business his one thought, and he lays up treasures in his business; another man devotes himself to science, and another to literature.

"When earthly treasures come first,
and the Heavenly are neglected,
how empty is that life!"

Now, it is all right for a man to be enthusiastic over his profession, and no one will ever succeed who does not devote himself to some pursuit; but when earthly treasures come first, and the Heavenly are neglected, how empty is that life, how hopeless and dreary its future.

HOW THE BROTHERS LAID UP TREASURES

I was visiting a friend a few years ago, and he took me to call on his brother, whose estate was one of the most beautiful in that region. On his place there was a fernery which had been built at an enormous cost, and I have never seen anything of the kind that could equal it in beauty and interest. In this hothouse were the most beautiful varieties of ferns, and at one end of the building was an artificial waterfall,

whose music, together with beautiful surroundings, seemed to transform a bleak, wintry day into the most ideal June weather.

My friend noted my admiration, and when we left his brother's he turned to me and said, "Now we will see my fernery."

When we returned to the town he took me away to a mission he was supporting, in which he was rescuing orphan children from a schooling of vice and sin, and teaching them of a better life while equipping them for the present one. These two brothers were laying up treasures, and both were enthusiastic over them; but one's treasures made Heaven no nearer, while the other's made Heaven a familiar place.

They tell us that when an ascent is made in a balloon, objects grow smaller and more insignificant the higher one rises. And so when we come to realize what lies before us and lay up our treasures above, the world will have fewer attractions for us, and what are now great temptations will appear worthless.

THE UNDYING INFLUENCE OF NOBLE LIVES

Now, Death may ridicule our earthly treasures when he rudely snatches us from their enjoyment, but if they are only securely laid up on high, nothing can ever reach them.

In Revelations the Apostle John tells us that he heard a voice from Heaven saying "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

"By laying up treasures in Heaven we leave behind a memorial more lasting than marble or granite."

And thus by laying up treasures in Heaven we also leave behind us a memorial more lasting than marble or granite. Anything we do for our own selfish gratification is sure to perish; but what we do for Christ, that is eternal.

And thus it is that we may live as much in the future as in the present—indeed, we may live more. John Wesley's¹ influence is greater today a thousandfold than when he lived. Horatio Bonar² lives today in the hymns he wrote, and through them preaches to more people than ever heard him preach.

Herod thought to silence that eloquent preacher by the banks of the Jordan, but the unselfish beauty of John the Baptist's character has preached and is still preaching, to millions of Christians throughout the world. (Matthew 14:3-5)

Now while it is day we must work to lay up treasures above, and when our course is ended we shall enter into rest, while the works done in the name of Christ shall follow us.

¹ John Wesley (1703-1791) was an English clergyman, evangelist, and co-founder of the Methodist movement.

² Horatio Bonar (1808-1889) was a prominent Scottish Free Church minister, author, and hymn writer.

WHEN VICTORIA HONORED HER OLD SOLDIERS

But the greatest reward will not be the sense of a lasting memorial on earth. That will be forgotten in the joy unspeakable of seeing His face and receiving His welcome.

In the Queen's jubilee procession³ last June there was a stand occupied by some old veteran officers of the army along the line of march. They were men who had seen hardships and privations in the service of their land and monarch, but this had only strengthened their loyalty, and when at last the Queen⁴ came opposite their stand they raised a rousing British cheer which the Queen most graciously acknowledged. I am told that these old soldiers were so overcome by this mark of their sovereign's approval that they could not control their feelings, and wept for joy at that token of royal favor.

"We, too, are in a royal service
infinitely more noble than
an earthly monarch's army."

We, too, are in a royal service infinitely more noble than any earthly monarch's army, and we, too, shall soon see our King. If we are but loyal to His cause on earth, we shall receive from Him the welcome approval, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

³ The jubilee procession in June 1897 celebrated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, marking the 60th anniversary of her accession to the British throne.

⁴ Queen Victoria (1819-1901) was the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India. Her reign (1837-1901) was one of the longest in British history.

WHERE A FUNERAL PROCESSION IS UNKNOWN

What a home the Christian has! *This* is not our home; this is only our training place. We look for a city eternal in the Heavens. (2 Corinthians 5:1) Just think of it! A city in God's universe that has no cemetery, whose streets never see a hearse, and where a funeral procession is never seen. A city where nothing unclean ever enters (Revelation 21:27), and weeping and mourning are gone, "for God shall wipe away all tears." (Revelation 21:4)

No jails nor hospitals are there, no want nor sickness, for God shall supply all needs. (Philippians 4:19) And there in the glorious light of His countenance we may serve Him whom we love, forever and forever.

"And there in the glorious light of His
countenance we may serve Him whom we love,
forever and forever."

Since we are citizens of such a home, how lightly should we count every trifle here, and how earnestly should we lay up treasures where we shall ever live to enjoy them.

While we as a Bible class may never meet here on earth, may the Lord bless us and keep us, and make His face to shine upon us all, until we do meet in those mansions which we may all enjoy throughout eternity.



Read More About ...

Mr. Moody paints a vivid picture of Heaven throughout this final lesson—its beauty, its permanence, its reunions, and its rewards.

Study these passages to explore what Scripture reveals about our eternal home, and to consider what it means to lay up treasures where they will never fade.

The Beauty and Wonders of Heaven:

- Revelation 5:8-9
- Revelation 14:2-3
- Revelation 21:2
- Revelation 21:11
- Revelation 21:21
- Revelation 21:23
- Revelation 22:1-5

God's House in Heaven:

- 2 Corinthians 5:1
- Hebrews 11:16

Names Written in the Book of Life:

- Philippians 4:3
- Revelation 3:5
- Revelation 20:15
- Revelation 21:27

Laying Up Treasures in Heaven:

- Matthew 6:19-21
- Luke 12:33-34
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Those Who Will Not Enter the Holy City:

- Galatians 5:19-21
- Revelation 21:8



PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mr. Moody closes this series of lessons by turning our eyes toward our true home. He writes, "*This* is not our home, this is only our training place," and reminds us that "how earnestly should we lay up treasures where we shall ever live to enjoy them."

Use the following questions to examine where your own treasures are stored, and what it means to live now in light of eternity.

Mr. Moody notes that “a person will almost always let you know in a short conversation where he is laying up treasures.”

If a friend spent an hour with you this week, what would your conversation reveal about where your treasure lies — in art, business, family, comfort, or something else? Would they think you were living for earth or for Heaven?

The two brothers in "How the Brothers Laid Up Treasures" both invested generously — one in a beautiful fernery, the other in rescuing orphans. Mr. Moody says only one brother's treasures "made Heaven a familiar place."

Looking at how you spend your time, money, and energy, which of your own pursuits are drawing you nearer to Heaven, and which are merely beautiful distractions?

Mr. Moody writes that John Wesley's influence is "greater today a thousandfold than when he lived," and that what we do for Christ "is eternal," while anything done "for our own selfish gratification is sure to perish."

What is one thing in your life right now — a relationship, a habit, a piece of work — that you sense will outlast you, versus something that will not?

In the story of the dying child, the mother describes golden streets, pearl gates, and heavenly music, but the child says, "I'm too tired ... Do you think Christ will take me in His arms and let me rest?"

When you picture Heaven, are you drawn more to its beauty and rewards, or to the person of Christ Himself? What does your answer reveal about your relationship with Him right now?

Mr. Moody writes that in Heaven there will be "no jails nor hospitals ... no want nor sickness, for God shall supply all needs," and that "God shall wipe away all tears."

What burden, fear, or grief are you currently carrying that this promise speaks to most directly? How does holding this hope change the way you carry it today?

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ABOUT THIS EDITION

The core text of this Bible study—Mr. Moody's teaching on our heavenly home with God—was originally published in *The Ladies' Home Journal* in 1897. As a work published over 125 years ago, Mr. Moody's original text is in the public domain and free for anyone to use. Scripture quotations are from the King James Version, also in the public domain.

ABOUT THIS TEXT

This edition faithfully preserves D.L. Moody's original teaching. We have made minimal edits for modern clarity—correcting obvious errors, updating a few archaic terms, and adjusting occasional grammatical inconsistencies—while keeping Mr. Moody's voice and meaning completely intact.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS EDITION

This 2026 edition includes:

- Updated formatting for modern readers
- Reflection and study questions
- Organized Scripture references
- Introductory paragraphs to sections titled “Mr. Moody’s Bible Verses,” “Read More About ...,” and “Personal Application”

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