

To all the living Saints at Manatee Life,

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 24:35 (CEB) – Matthew 24:26-35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

STORY:

A small girl one evening looked up wondering at the star-studded sky and exclaimed: “If the wrong side of heaven looks like this, what must the right side be like?”

OBSERVATION:

“Well, what earthly good are you preacher? Please tell me what have you done for the people of planet earth lately?”

Interesting question asked so many years ago by a neighbor. It has stuck with me through the weeks, months and years since it was asked. Contemplating the impact one is making on the world around us is quite a reflective moment. Are we, as the old adage states, “so heaven bound that we are no earthly good?”

Contemplating the neighbor’s question caused me to make a statement during a Bible study. Which, by the way, got me into a huge amount of trouble with the senior pastor. My question was this: “*If there was no heaven in the offering, would you still seek to be in an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ?*” I would add now, if our earthly existence was all that there is with this earthly journey, would you, could you still be in a daily relationship with Jesus?

Or, are we in the relationship for the rewards ...come by and by?

The promise of heaven is intended, at least from my perspective, to make the living out our days here on earth more joy-filled not easier. In my opinion, the promise of heaven makes taking relationship risks and doing the unthinkable, as well as the unimaginable more meaningful.

The little girl in the story above was wise beyond her years. Hmmm, shouldn’t she as well as everyone else be able to look into our face and at our life and know what heaven looks like? I believe that Jesus’ words (Matthew 24:35) don’t fade away as we live out their reality among our fellow travelers on planet earth.

That’s my opinion ... and I’m sticking to it!

QUOTE:

“A little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but a lot of faith will bring heaven to your soul.” – Dwight L. Moody

PRAYER:

We get all caught up with the rewards and fail to understand that the purpose of rewards is the service we provide to others. Forgive us for being so nearsighted.

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim

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***Don't forget that our Worship Service will be on Facebook this Sunday.
Share this good news with yur friends and neighbors.***

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