



Who's Dancing With the Stars? by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

No matter what someone's life has been like, it seems at the funeral he/ she is continuing that life "in Heaven." A family sees their pet dog there playing "fetch;" another "knows" that their Uncle is pulling pranks on Moses; another "wants to believe" their Mother is cooking special meals for Jesus; still another says their family member "has joined the chorus in Heaven." People whose lives are in rebellion against God seem to worm their way into "Heaven." Whatever "talent" someone has shown on earth, we are told, will be added to the activities of "Heaven:" entertainer, singer, athlete, media personality, dancer, teacher, etc.

While on the one hand, it demonstrates how strongly humans are attracted to the concept of "Heaven" so that they want everything they know to be a part of it; but on the other hand, it is profanity to bring "Heaven" down to merely an extension and continuation of life on earth! If "Heaven" is more of Earth, then the diseased, disabled, distraught, deformed, dangerous, and damnable would bring their terror and tears with them!

"Heaven" simply means "upward" and there were three "heavens" referred to in the God's Word. The Apostle Paul said,

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a one was caught up to the third heaven (**2 Corinthians 12:2**).

The Word of God begins with:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (**Genesis 1:1**).

1. The **first** "upward" from the Earth's surface is the atmosphere we breathe and in which birds fly (**Genesis 1:20-23**). It is "under heaven" where eagles fly (**Proverbs 23:5**), birds live (**Jeremiah 34:20**), nations dwell (**Acts 2:5**), and Jesus' Name saves (**Acts 4:12**).
2. The **second** layer of "upward" away from the Earth is the "heaven" we call "outer space" where the sun, moon, and stars reside (**Genesis 1:14-19; 15:5; Deuteronomy 4:13**). These two were the "heavens" God created along with "the earth."
3. The **third** "heaven" is the ultimate "upward" where: God lives (**Ecclesiastes 5:2; Daniel 2:17-19**), the righteous are rewarded (**Matthew 5:12**), God's throne is (**Matthew 5:34**), and where Jesus is now.

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God (**Mark 16:19**).

Jesus taught disciples how to pray:

"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven" (**Luke 11:2**).

The God who created the "heavens" dwells in an unreachable "Heaven," where Jesus now is. Having lived on Earth,

[Jesus Christ] alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen (**1 Timothy 6:16**).

"Unapproachable" literally means "unable to go there." No "space probe" can travel far enough to reach God's "Heaven!"

Jesus Christ clearly taught that God's "Heaven" is NOT simply an extension of activities from the Earth.

"For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven" (**Matthew 22:30**).

The following figures of speech describe the church of Christ in **Revelation 21:1-22:7**, and end in the Heaven where God is! The church of Christ is:

- The "holy city, new Jerusalem" which came from Heaven (**Hebrews 12:22-23; Revelation 21:2, 10**);
- The Lamb's bride (**2 Corinthians 1:1; 11:2; Revelation 21:2,9**);
- The "temple of God" where God is represented as dwelling on Earth (**2 Corinthians 1:1; 6:16; Revelation 21:3, 22**); and
- It will be delivered up to God, not established, at Jesus' Second Coming (**1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Revelation 22:3**).

NO fleshly gratification will be there (**Revelation 21:4, 8, 27**). This is why the saved in the church of Christ strive to please God by avoiding sin (**Colossians 3:1-11**), and being spiritual (**Colossians 3:12-25**).

God's "Heaven" is devoted only to worshipping Him in acceptable ways (**Revelation 4:1-5:14**), which are learned on Earth:

- Singing (**Colossians 3:16**),
- Praising Him (**Philippians 1:9-11**),
- Bowing before Him and
- Confessing to Him (**Romans 14:11-12**).

All will be totally God-centered, NOT man-pleasing! People do not "join Heaven's chorus" unless they have "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (**Revelation 7:9-17**). Those who obey the Gospel of Christ have been "buried with Him through baptism into death" in order to "walk in newness of life" (**Romans 6:3-5**). This baptism is not for the saved, but for the lost (**Mark 16:15-16**).

There is no "hope of Heaven" if it is the same as life on Earth!

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance (**Romans 8:22-25**).

If what we see on Earth is what will be in Heaven, then there is no hope! Physical bodies of humans and animals both go back into the dust from where they came, but their "spirits" are different:

All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth? (**Ecclesiastes 3:20-21**)

All dogs won't go to "Heaven;" children won't have hamsters, video games or dolls there; professional singers won't be intoning their lyrics about drunkenness, divorce, sexual antics, or hatred; it will not be a "family reunion" for cooking or visiting; nor will it be a glorified "Facebook;" *ad nauseum*.

To those who have learned to worship and serve Him because He saved them by His grace in Christ, through their faith in obedience, He will say,

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (**Matthew 25:21**).

Heaven is for those who enjoy attending church and worshipping God!

-----**John T. Polk II**

Published in the ***Gospel Gleaner***, June 2013