

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317)888-8288

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

VOLUME 7 NO. 23

August 8, 2010

A Traveler's Guide To Heaven

A Selected Article

ACCOMODATIONS – Arrangements for accommodations must be made in advance (John 14:2).

PASSPORTS – Persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without having proper credentials and having their names registered with the ruling authority (Revelation 21:27).

DEPARTURE TIME – The exact date of departure has not been announced. Travelers are advised to be prepared on short notice (I Corinthians 15:52).

TICKETS – Your ticket was purchased by a Friend named Jesus. It should be claimed by learning the gospel, believing in Christ, repenting of sins, confessing Jesus, and having sins washed away in baptism (Romans 10:17; Acts 2:38; Matthew 10:32; Acts 22:16). Keep its promises firmly in hand (John 5:24; Hebrews 5:8-9).

LUGGAGE – No luggage whatsoever is needed or allowed (I Timothy 6:7).

IMMIGRATION – All passengers are classified as immigrants since they are taking up permanent residence in a new country. There is no maximum quota, so all are invited to come (Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 22:17).

AIR PASSAGE – All travelers going directly by air (I Thessalonians 4:17).

VACCINATIONS – Not needed as there are no diseases there (Revelation 21:4).

2

CURRENCY – Deposits may be forwarded to await passenger's arrival. Please make deposits as large as possible (Matthew 6:20-21).

CLOTHING – A complete and appropriated new wardrobe is provided for each traveler (Isaiah 61:10).

RESERVATIONS – Booking is now open. Since departure time is unknown you should apply at once. If you wait, it may be too late (II Corinthians 6:2).

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONSULT THE HOLY BIBLE.

SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU

From The Lincoln Bible Reader

The Apostle Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13), warned the early Christians concerning some of the things which will exclude one from heaven: *“Or know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God”* (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, ASV). The efforts of modern man to belittle, laugh at and/or ignore such warnings are unavailing. Neither the legislatures of men nor the judicial judgments of men trained in law can change what God has said.

Our gracious, loving, merciful God does not want His creation (i.e., man) to be eternally separated from Him (see 2 Peter 3:9b). In a love unfathomable (John 3:16) God has provided the means whereby those guilty of such *heaven-excluding sins* may be forgiven (see Hebrews 5:9). Our gracious God stands ever willing to forgive the vilest of sinner. He can and will forgive the sins listed above, and, *hallelujah*, even other sins. In fact, on Pentecost (Acts 2) He was ready to forgive those responsible for the death of His Son: *“ . . . this Jesus whom ye crucified”* (Acts 2:36c).

After the list of *heaven-excluding sins*, Paul made a statement which, if made today, would be considered totally inappropriate, harsh and politically incorrect. He said, “***And such were some of you***” (1 Corinthians 6:11a). I am sure that those who first read these words, along with those of us who read them today, rejoiced exceedingly that it did not (does not) say, “And such **are** some of you.” There is an eternity of difference between “were” and “are.”

What made this *eternal* difference? “. . . ***but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God***” (1 Corinthians 6:11). Today we would be more likely to say, “You were saved (Mark 16:16),” “You obeyed the gospel (2 Thessalonians 4:17),” or “You were baptized into Christ” (Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27). The thing which changed an “are” into a “were” was not merely that the ones involved had stopped what they were doing. Their relationship to the sin(s) involved in their individual life was changed when their relationship to God was changed. Had they stopped committing, walking in, living in the sin(s) listed? Assuredly! Ceasing to be involved in sin is good, but such does not change the relationship (guilt) of the sins already committed. On Pentecost the *murderers* were not told “STOP” or merely “repent,” but “***Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit***” (Acts 2:38).

It is possible (all too, too possible) that there are individuals who have not committed adultery in fifteen years, or been drunk for eighteen years, or bowed down (in body or in mind) to an idol in twenty-two years who are still guilty of adultery, drunkenness or idolatry! Some people stopping walking in sin because of the frailty of the body. Sin is hard on that which was designed to be a temple of the living God. Unless and until that one obeys the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . the sin remains! Not only does the guilt of the sin remain, but also the sentence of God remains: “***shall***

not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:10d).

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

**It is difficult to take advice from
some people, knowing how badly they
need it themselves.**

He who angers you, controls you!