

Lesson 9: CHARITY AND “CHARITIES”

Doctrine of Charity, chapter 9

Introductory Ideas for the Ninth Lesson

At last we find the first mention of “charity” as it is widely used today. Charitable acts for causes outside of our daily work are called “benefactions” of charity. The point is made here that none are saved by these benefactions. Here are a few starter questions:

1. Define the word “charity” as it is used in our daily life. (You could bring dictionaries for students to look up and read the definitions.)
2. Define the word “charity” as we understand the term in the Heavenly Doctrine.

Some Key Points in Chapter 9:

Charity 185 describes people who have died and are now in the spiritual world. When they boast to the angels about all the good things they have done during their lives on earth, the angels have several simple questions. What are they? We will be asked the same questions when we go to the spiritual world. How will we answer these questions?

In relation to their life’s occupations, the spirits were asked several other questions— whether they did their occupations for fame, honor and gain (*i.e.* for their own sake) or whether they did them for the neighbor’s sake. How did they reply? (They hadn’t thought about it.) Did this excuse them? Why not?

What happens spiritually to people who behave that way? Where do they live after death?