

DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

SPACE IN HEAVEN

by the Rt. Rev. George de Charms

You may have heard it said that there is no space in the spiritual world, but that does not mean that all the angels live in the same place. It means rather, that the kind of space that exists in heaven is very different from the space we see around us here; and yet they appear exactly alike. Angels do not all live in the same place. They are separated from one another by distances, greater or less. Some live in cities, where their houses are close together, while others live in the countryside, on mountains, or in the forests, or by the sea shore, with roads leading from one to another. Those who live in hell are far away from the angels of heaven; indeed between these two there is “a great gulf fixed.”

If you wanted to go to some place where you had never been before what would you do? You would ask someone to show you the way. Many people have been to distant places, and know how to get there. If you cannot find anyone who knows the way, you still may be given a road map which you could follow. If you were to drive an automobile, you would watch the sign-posts that are set up on the crossroads, pointing out the direction in which you should go.

Suppose you want to do something that adults do, but you do not know how. You may want to play the piano, or ride a horse, or fly an airplane. You have to learn how to do these things. Someone who knows the way, must show you how.

When we are born we are a very long way from heaven, and we have not the faintest idea how to get there. We think that happiness lies in doing whatever we please, or following every road that looks attractive to us. We want to play all the time. We think that learning is work from which we would wish to escape. We want to do the things that grown up people do, but we do not understand why we have to go to school in order to learn how. School, after all, is nothing but a place where teachers can tell us the things we need to know, and how to do the things we want to do. What they tell us is the road, the way, the truth which we could not find without their help. The way to do anything is what is called the truth. We have to learn that truth, and then we have to practice it, that is, we have to walk along that road if we are to reach the place we want to go.

When the Lord was about to leave this world, and go to His throne above the heavens, He said to His disciples:

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you: I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2,3).

The Lord has prepared a special place in heaven for every one, and He has written His Word to show us the way that leads there. He not only tells us the way, but He shows us how we may follow that road, until we come at last into heaven. The Lord wants to give us the eternal happiness of heaven. That is the reason why He has created us. He alone knows the way, and no one else can show us that way. Such being the case, the most important thing in all our life is to learn from His Word the truth that leads to heaven. The only reason why we are born is that we may find the road and make the journey from earth to heaven. That is why the Lord says to all of us:

“Search the Scriptures [that is, read the Word] for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39).

This means that we must read the Word if we would learn the way to heaven. Only the Lord can teach us that way, and that is why He has written His Word, in order to teach us what we must do if we are to come into heaven. In all the societies of heaven, the Lord has created a special place for each one of us. He has created a special road leading to that place, and He tells us in His Word how to find that road, and how to follow it. There is no other way.

If we learn what the Lord teaches in His Word, we will see that road, and we will be filled with a longing to follow it. But if we turn away from the Word, and insist upon going our own way, we will see only the road that leads to hell where there is no happiness, where we will never see the wonderful and beautiful things of heaven, but will dwell in caves surrounded by waste lands in which we wander not knowing where to go, and feeling utterly lost.

So you see there is space in the other world, and while it is very different from space here on earth, it appears the same, and it is very important. There are roads or ways in that world, leading from one place to another. It is very important to learn those ways, and most important of all, to follow them. For this reason the Lord says in His Word:

“If you know these things, happy are you, if you do them” (John 13:17).

Text: John 14: 2,3