

Dear SALUTATION,

Over the years I have heard many sermons about about our "mansions" in heaven. Songs. have been written about them. And it is true that in our King James Bible Jesus spoke of preparing mansions for us:

John 14:2-3 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.

When we think of a mansion we imagine of a massive house sitting on a large piece of property. Plush carpets, magnificent staircases, exquisite furnishings, and so forth. Each person would have a different concept of what their "mansion" would be like. In my studies, however, I have learned that heaven is only a temporary home for us believers. Our permanent home will be on a new earth surrounded by a new heaven.

Rev 21:1-3 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

So what then? Will we have an old mansion in heaven and a new mansion on the new earth? Actually, Jesus was not speaking of an actual "mansion" the way we normally think of one. The Greek word translated "mansion" in that verse is "mone" and it literally means "residence, abode." In fact just a few verses later Jesus uses the same word to describe how the Father intends to take up His "abode" within the hearts of believers:

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode [Greek = mone] with him.

We all know the Father does not intend to build some sort of literal "mansion" within us for Him to live in. No, Jesus is speaking of the Father coming to live within us, to take up residence within us, to make His abode within us spiritually. So what is Jesus talking about when he spoke of Himself preparing a "residence, an abode" for us in heaven? To understand let's look at another verse where Jesus spoke of the Father's house:

John 8:35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

Servants come into their Master's house every day in order to do their duties. Some may clean, some may cook, some may do laundry, but none of them have permanent residence there. They go home each night because they are not part of the Master's "family." They do not abide forever (permanently) in the Master's house. But the Master's son ... He has a room all his own in His Father's house. It is the son's room ... forever! The son will always have a room in his Father's house.

Jesus was saying to them, My Father shall become your Father when you are born again. I am going to prepare a place of "sonship" for you in My Father's house. All that I am doing through my crucifixion,

burial and resurrection is for the purpose of making the new birth available to you. You will no longer simply be servants working in my Fathers' house temporarily. You will be sons and heirs. You will have the standing of sonship forever! You will dwell as a son forever with your Father!

1John 3:1-2 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We have a hard time believing we have the standing of "sonship" in our heavenly Father's house because we tend to live "by sight" instead of living "by faith." We tend to "see" all of our mistakes, our failings and faults and we conclude, "I am a worm. I am a failure. I am no good." But living by faith means we believe God's Word simply because it is God's Word. God cannot lie. Jesus said, "Father, thy Word is truth."

What does the Father's Word say? "Now" are we the sons of God. NOW! Look at 1 John 3: 2 again: **"Beloved, now are we the sons of God."** Not when we get to heaven. NOW! This is the one of the great "mysteries" of the gospel. This is miraculous. This could never have happened without the love of God and the voluntary sacrifice of Jesus Christ that gave us the standing of sonship. Let us lift up our heads and understand that we have been truly "born of God." Let us rise up to walk like the children of God on earth. You have much more than a physical "mansion" in heaven. You have the standing of sonship, an heir in your Father's house.

SALUTATION, thank you for your gift of AMOUNT. Sue and I love you and appreciate you. We thank God for your generous and giving heart. God bless you!

Your friend and co-laborer,