

Free Visa Advice to Heaven

By

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Visa, the Wonder Paper Many only Dream about

The world is an unfair place. And there's really no one to put the blame on, except to say the curse of Paradise Lost persists to this day and is the remote cause of all human misery! In one home people have food and drink and all the creature comforts to spare; in another home, really a shack they call home, hungry mouths barely have enough to eat, let alone enjoy modern comforts.

It's an age-old outrage: wealth exists side by side with poverty, prosperity with destitution. And it's not only true of individuals in virtually every society on earth but also true of nations. The nations of the world, in terms of economic ranking, fall into two main categories: rich, developed nations and poor, underdeveloped nations. The former have earned the collective term the First World and the latter the Third World. And from the perspective of the people of the Third World, given their lower standard of living, the grass is always greener on the other side - the side of the First World.

This has translated into an ardent desire on the part of many citizens of Third World countries to travel to the First World, their dream land. But traveling to the First World countries of Europe and America is not an easy task if one is from the Third World. With poverty written all over your face, embassy staff of the First World country you wish to visit are not at all enthused to readily grant you visa.

Eager to escape the poverty of his home country, however, the typical 'hustler' from Africa who has saved some hard-earned cash with the sole objective of travelling is not ready to give up on being refused the visa for the first time. He braces himself for another interview but this time with the benefit of professional advice. He has sought the services of a visa advisory, the so-called 'visa contractors'. The advisory take the prospective visa applicant through a whole school of etiquette and body language. Apart from educating him on what documents to submit, they coach him on how to conduct himself, how to respond to questions, how to dress and even how to carry himself at the interview. They teach him to avoid all the faux pas that could lead to the embassy staff refusing him visa again. They even try to second-guess the questions the usually po-faced impersonal interviewers will fire at the applicant and conduct mock interviews to find out how well he will fare on the D-Day. Although many embassies give prospective travellers helpful information about their requirements, etc, in the Third World, the professional visa advisory is an industry in itself.

Travelling to the First World is for many in Africa and other Third World regions a crucially important matter; a survival issue. They essentially seek economic refuge in the First World and therefore pay good money (at the risk of being duped by shady 'middlemen' anyway) to

get all the help they need to prepare well for the interview. Never mind, some of the information in the documents may be false declarations!

This is no strange story from a strange land. Few of us here will refuse to grab at the prospect of 'travelling abroad', the visa hassle and all, let alone the people outside. But are we equally keen to grab the visa to heaven? How many even realize we need a visa to travel to heaven or that heaven even exists?

Heaven Does Exist

It's almost atavistic; an instinctive knowledge persists among all cultures that there's a Big One up there. Though invisible, He rules over all and has limitless power over spirit, man and nature. When all else fails, many people instinctively find themselves directing their gaze heavenward for the great unseen Father's favour and intervention. The Akans of Ghana typically console a person who has been given a raw deal for which no remedy appears in sight to give it all to God. To the modern mind, the existence of God, heaven, etc may all be a myth. After all, no astronaut ever discovered or encountered God in space!

But for those of us who believe, the Creator God is not a myth but truly exists and is "a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6). The means by which we search out God, seek Him out and worship Him (Greek) is not the spaceship! We seek Him by His Word. It's an obligation laid on all men by God (Acts 17:24-28).

This Word of the Creator God, by which He created us and all things, and by which He is saving all humanity, names His dwelling place as Heaven--not the atmospheric heavens but the spiritual, invisible "Third Heaven" (2 Cor. 12:2). Solomon, in his prayer at the dedication of the Temple he built, made repeated references to God's dwelling place in heaven in his plea to Him to hear the supplications His people would make from the Jerusalem temple:

1 Kings 8:27-36

²⁷ But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

²⁸ Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day:

²⁹ That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

³⁰ And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear Thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

³¹ If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house:

³² Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

³³ When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house:

³⁴ Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.

³⁵ *When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them:*

³⁶ *Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.*

Heaven is God's throne and He makes that plain enough in His word:

Isa 66:1

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool: where is the house that ye build unto Me? and where is the place of My rest?

He asks for *a resting-place in our hearts!* God seeks a crushed spirit and a broken heart, a sincere heart, a heart rid of all pride, not one which merely delights in religious ritual in an outward show of religiosity but one that longs for Him. God seeks such a heart--the man who 'trembles at His Word', in expression of his heart attitude (Isa. 66:2-5), to find rest therein! This is the heart in which He will find comfort and peaceful repose on earth; where He will relax and be at ease.

And the rest of the earth has a connection with the rest in heaven! He who through sincere faith and obedience gives God a place of rest in his heart will also be given eternal rest by God in Heaven, the place of His throne. It's not an old wives' tale. It's real and it's guaranteed.

One of the faithful has since toured heaven and brought back a report:

Rev 4:1-3

¹ *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*

² *And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*

³ *And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

The Apostle John goes on to describe a most wonderful place--a place full of the glory and fullness of God. A place where there's no pain, no sickness, no death, no injustice, and no darkness. Neither the sun nor the moon "for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23; 22:5).

And there's the "tree of life", which was made off-limits to man when he disobeyed God in Eden (Gen. 3:24), along with the water of life:

Rev 22:1-2

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

² *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

This is the heaven to which Christ has promised to take all His disciples. It is a solemn promise:

John 14:1-3

¹ *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me.*

² *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.*

³ *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.*

More importantly, He adds: "*And you know the way to where I am going*" (John 14:4 ESV).

What is this "way"?

Fortunately for us, disciple Thomas is just as curious. He asks the Lord:

"... 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (vv. 5-6 ESV).

The way to the Father in heaven is Christ. His way consists of "the truth and the life"--two qualities of Christ that qualify Him to take us to the Father. He is divine truth and life personified. This truth is the Law of God (Ps 119:142), His Word (Ps 33:4; 2 Cor. 1:18; Ps 100:5, 111:8). It's from this Word that Life flows to the obedient. The Word of truth is the Word of life (1 John 1:1).

What does this Word teach us about God's dwelling place in Heaven which has also been promised us as our eternal dwelling place in the age to come?

A Land of Righteousness

The form of government in heaven is a Theocracy, the rule of God. And the way of life associated with and permissible in the land is a given—Righteousness, the very essence of God's character! Peter wrote, admonishing the faithful:

2 Peter 3:13-14

¹³ *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

¹⁴ *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

Righteousness is intrinsic to the land; it dwells in the land; it's native to the land. We live and breathe righteousness in heaven. Righteousness is the natural way to live in heaven. This precludes all sin and unrighteousness in heaven. Hence the exhortation from the apostle, "... be diligent that ye may be found of Him [who comes from heaven, the land of righteousness to save us] in peace, without spot, and blameless".

Fail in any of the above requirements --being in harmony with His will, being pure and blameless--and the door of heaven will be slammed in your face!

It's the land of uprightness for the upright; the wicked is not welcome there. Because he is used to evil, the wicked will not shrink from perpetrating evil in the very Presence of the holy God:

Isa 26:10

Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold [recognize] the majesty [greatness] of the LORD.

The problem is that their evil bent has not been cured and a change of environment--even heaven--would not necessarily reform them. Theirs is a habit of sin. The LORD declares through the prophet Jeremiah:

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jer. 13:23).

Beloved, the remedy lies in sincere repentance on believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit will do the rest. He will change you from within, bringing true contrition and conversion. God will change your very constitution and spirit by His Spirit, making you fit for Heaven because your lifestyle and values are in tune with those of heaven.

So far as God has promised us residence He has at the ready the spiritual resources that will prepare, equip and qualify us for habitation in heaven. Only yield to the Master through faith and repentance. Don't consider any evil habit an incurable part of your life. Let the Saviour take charge of your life so He can make you a citizen of heaven on earth *in transit* to heaven:

Phil. 3:20-21

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself" (ESV).

Now, what values does heaven hold in high esteem?

The Focus is God and His Will

The world is the polar opposite of heaven. Therefore, the values the world regards are those Heaven despises and vice versa. None of the esteemed things of the world should define your life on earth or you are bound to fade into oblivion:

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

¹⁷ *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Affection for the world is really found in affection for the things of the world. And it's a tell-tale sign that love for the Father is not in an individual--for one cannot love the world and the Father at the same things (Matt. 6:24).

So how do we know that we love the world instead of the Father?

It's to indulge the evil desires of the flesh and of the eyes as well as to glory in one's life achievements and possessions. The flesh is a powerful force--with great controlling power over the human senses, his feelings and desires. But why does the flesh exert so much control over man? It's because fallen man is of the same essence as the flesh. Man is flesh (Gen. 6:3; John 3:6).

Another reason is that Satan has an ally in the flesh in his desire to alienate man from God, who is Spirit. And he uses it to great effect to further his destructive agenda against mankind. All the worldly ways of Satan are pivoted on the flesh and its evil desires; it's by the evil desires of the flesh that the devil has made all unregenerate mankind live his will, a situation which makes them "the children of [God's] wrath"--awaiting His great wrath to be revealed in the judgment of the last day. We read in Eph. 2:1-3:

¹ *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins*

² *in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--*

³ *among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind (ESV).*

Formerly we walked as dead men in "trespasses and sins", seemingly the normal way of life in this world, but they were in reality the will of "the prince of the power of the air", who is a spirit at work in every person who is disobedient to God.

And how was Satan's will actualized in our former lives of disobedience? It was when we "lived in the passions of our flesh" by "carrying out the desires of the body and the mind"!

So, you see, without the flesh, Satan is terribly handicapped! The flesh is his means of power over us.

But the flesh is not an invincible force; it has a conqueror in the Spirit of God, a truth lived out by Christ during His earthly life as flesh and blood but *One who was filled with the Spirit*. The testimony of the scriptures is that throughout His earthly life, He never sinned, not even once (Heb. 4:15; John 8:46; 1 Pet. 2:22; Luke 4:14; John 3:34).

The Spirit is the slayer of the flesh.

Rom. 8:13

... if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live (ESV).

The death the Satan-allied flesh brings is not just physical death, but the very death Adam and Eve suffered the day they disobeyed God and ate of the tree of good and evil. That fateful day, they listened to the voice of the devil and obeyed him, and that obedience was mediated by the flesh. The desires of the flesh, which the devil had aroused by his sugar-coated words of deception ... that their eyes will be opened like God..., made the devil's suggestion all at once seem sensible. Eve had been enticed. The devil had brought her to a point where all her senses had been hijacked to his will, and she found it difficult to step back from the brink. After all, the fruit looked and felt so good:

Gen. 3:6

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The action which resulted from the desire - the eating of the forbidden fruit in disobedience to God - was sin, and sin leads to death (see Jam. 1:14-15). This death is not primarily physical demise but separation from God, "the fountain of life" (Ps. 36:9); it's banishment from His Presence.

Apart from God, there's no life, but His way is not the way of the flesh but the way of the Spirit. Therefore, let's follow the things of the Spirit, which are all about doing righteousness, lest the devil entices us by the lusts of the flesh. The cost is separation from God and therefore the Life from Him.

But often it's not only the lusts of the flesh which, when fulfilled, lead to a betrayal of the Father's love. An accomplice is "the pride of life", as the text calls it. It's to swell with pride at one's material possessions and high social standing; to be full of yourself because you are no ordinary person, you are no riffraff! You have attained so-and-so high level of education in a world-class university; you own several lucrative businesses and command millions of dollars; you hobnob with the rich and the famous; you are a man of class, you are a woman of distinction. So your ego is bloated. You have made a name for yourself.

Does such a soul know humility before God? Does he even recognize Him as a contributor to his success, much less serve Him and worship Him in truth?

Nay, he's a god to himself. And his life's achievements and abundant possessions tell the story of how great he is!

Sorry, but our big man built his life and greatness on a wisp of hope! He made a bad gamble; he built his life on a foundation of "uncertain riches" and an equally uncertain life. His possessions may even outlast him. The Master drives home the point with a parable, *The Parable of the Rich Fool*:

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ *And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.*

¹⁴ *And He said unto him, Man, who made Me a judge or a divider over you?*

¹⁵ *And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

¹⁶ *And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

¹⁷ *And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*

¹⁸ *And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.*

¹⁹ *And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*

²⁰ *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

²¹ *So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

Up to this point in the passage, Christ had been giving His disciples a pep talk meant to encourage them to preach and advocate His word regardless of the costs so that He would likewise acknowledge them before the Father in heaven. Then one of His listeners butted in with an aside, as though he found the whole 'lecture' being given by Christ irrelevant and boring. He was not concerned with the work of proclaiming the gospel; neither the laurels guaranteed the disciple who faithfully and boldly preaches the word. He would rather Christ prevailed upon his brother to share the family estate with him! The import of Jesus' talk had not yet sunk in!

The Lord was the least enthused and all but told him off, "Man, who made Me a judge or a divider over you?" Then He narrated the parable to send the message that a man's worth does not consist in the abundance of his possessions, which he may busy himself amassing, but in how superbly he relates to God. After all our life, for whose comfort and pleasure we acquire possessions, is not in our own hands but in the hands of God, and it exists at His pleasure.

Still, we cannot do without material things as long as we live on earth. We need to eat, clothe ourselves, have a roof over our heads and take care of our families and dependants. So how do we relate to material things as a people who seek to be "rich toward God", i.e. immerse ourselves in the things that please Him?

Answer: Let's not worry about our material needs but rather consider them as already taken care of by the Father just as He does for all his other creatures. God does not abandon His creatures to their fate; He provides for every life He creates. That's how the birds survive and thrive and so the splendid but ephemeral, oven-bound lilies in the field. And so should the believer approach life in matters of everyday needs. The point is, even if we worry all our life, we cannot by it add one minute to our lifespan or a "cubit" (45 cm) to our height. True life is knowing God and doing His will:

Luke 12:22-31

²² *And He said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.*

²³ *The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.*

²⁴ *Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?*

²⁵ *And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?*

²⁶ *If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?*

²⁷ *Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

²⁸ *If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

²⁹ *And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.*

³⁰ *For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.*

³¹ *But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

The Lord recommends a better investment (vv. 32-34), one that is eternally rewarding. And that comes first before everything else; in fact, it's the one investment that opens the door to all the blessings of this life. Sadly, most people attempt to seek it last, while on their deathbeds awaiting death, not when they are youth as the Bible commands (Eccl. 12:1).

However, material riches do not come to only unbelievers; some believers are moneyed too. How are such rich believers to behave in light of their *first* investment - in the kingdom?

The Apostle Paul instructs Pastor Timothy:

¹⁷ *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

¹⁸ *That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate [share];*

¹⁹ *Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life (1 Tim. 6:17-19).*

The rich Christian is supposed to be spiritual in outlook. He is not to behave the *normal* way the carnal rich person would: being arrogant and seeing his wealth as some form of life security. Instead, he is to put his trust in God and replace the tendency to be haughty with profuse works of charity so he will store for himself in the vaults of heaven a firm foundation whereby he may lay hold of eternal life!

This rich believer demonstrated love for the Father and not for a world on the verge of extinction; therefore, he abides forever! He set his love on the glorious things in heaven - the grand, awesome promises of God - where the risen Christ is seated, not on the carnal things on earth. For he slew the latter through the Spirit! And gloried not in his riches but in God and in the doing of His will (Jer. 9:23-24). Therefore, the things in heaven have become his, foremost among them eternal life which is the glorious Christ and in the glorious Christ (Col. 3:1-5).

Love for the Father is all that counts, and that love is not lip-service but demonstrated through the keeping of His commandments (Ex. 20:6; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). It's a simple test of loyalty: make God your first and sole love (Mark 12:30) with the help of His Spirit. The flesh and the ego have no power to stop from loving the Father if you live in the Spirit and grow in the Spirit. It's a life of prayer and living by every word of God! It's making God

and the things that please Him your priority in life. You are the one He calls the apple of His eye and gives you eternal life so He might shower His eternal love on you!

The Citizens of the World to Come

God has promised the people who love Him a fantastic treat, a treat that's beyond all human experience and imagination (1 Cor. 2:9)! By the world's standards, it's the cream of society, the well-to-do and the big names who should be occupying the high table in God's Kingdom. But no, that's not the case in the Kingdom of God where worldly standards have no place. In the Kingdom of heaven, the *roll of honour* reflects *the calling*, made up of mostly ordinary, lower-class folk (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

Their distinction lies in their faithful observance of God's commandments (Rev. 12:17) out of love for Him--exactly what the world has rejected to show that they do NOT love the Father. Prominent among the divine commandments rejected by the world is the 4th commandment, the Seventh-day Sabbath. The faithful ones of God keep this world-hated commandment, in the face of derision and sometimes persecution, to mark them out them as citizens of the age to come who are bound to that age by common values and customs!

That's to say, God's true saints keep the same customs of the age to come to show that they, even in this life, belong to the coming glorious age and are, indeed, headed for that age. Thus the LORD speaks through the prophet Isaiah:

²² *... as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.*

²³ *And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the LORD (Isa. 66:22-23).*

The much-loved pagan festivals like Christmas (Saturnalia), Easter, and Halloween and the universally observed worship day of the sun-god, Sunday, will not be kept in next new world. They will all be banned and outlawed! But the Sabbath will be restored to universal honour as God intended it from the beginning, "and all flesh shall worship before Him from one Sabbath to another! If you are a faithful child of Zion, who observed the Sabbath as a sign that you belong to God (Ex. 31:13, 16-17; Ez. 20:12; Heb. 4:9-10), count yourself in. You will be there, and God will return your devotion and love infinitely:

⁵ *And of Zion it shall be said, "This one and that one were born in her"; for the Most High Himself will establish her.*

⁶ *The LORD records as He registers the peoples, "This one was born there." Selah*

⁷ *Singers and dancers alike say, "All my springs are in you" (Ps 87:5-7 ESV; cp Heb. 12:22-23).*

The angelic choir sings the love refrain eulogizing God's love for His redeemed people, "All My springs of joy are in you"!

What a blessed person you will be! You will be enthroned as God's king-priest, crowned with eternal life and glory. And you will walk the golden streets of heaven in splendour, admiring your reflected image in the golden lustre of the streets and the shine of the precious stones which adorn its walls. Heaven is the quintessence of all holiness and purity, and you will

bask in the glorious light of His Presence. The great personalities of scripture, the heroes of the faith, including kings like David and Hezekiah, will be your company:

Rev. 21:23-27

²³ *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

²⁴ *And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

²⁵ *And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*

²⁶ *And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.*

²⁷ *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

But you shall be there! Jesus is your visa to heaven. It is by His grace that the Father has "qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Col. 1:12 ESV). You met all the requirements. When you repented of your sins through faith in Him, you were washed in His precious blood (Rev. 7:14) and you kept His commandments of love granting you the right to enter the heavenly city of God:

Rev 22:14

Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Like the rest of the saints, you were qualified. But to this hour, there are countless millions of people the world over who eerily hold to the visa to hell, and will end up in hell. There's nothing special about this visa. We all had it at birth via grandpa Adam and grandma Eve (Rom. 5:12-14, 3:23; 1 Tim. 2:14). Conceived and born in sin, all humanity was bound to reap "the wages of sin" which is death--eternal separation from God--but Christ cancelled that sentence of death at a stroke for all those who believe in Him when He declared "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

As long as we abide in Him in the Spirit, we are no longer under condemnation but alive:

Rom 8:1-2

¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

² *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Heaven, the land of eternal life, is our glorious home! Amen!

SONG: Heaven is my home