

Put Joy Back in Bible Study!

# PictureThis! Prayerline

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When teaching in Honduras a few weeks ago, one of the messages the Lord gave me related to the three heavens. Here is a recap.

**1<sup>st</sup> Heaven.** This domain is our natural habitat and is best described in Genesis 1:1-25. It includes everything to the edge of our universe, wherever that may be. God has given us dominion over everything in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Heaven.** We assume this area was in between the first and third heaven because the prince of Persia stopped Gabriel on his way to the earth with a message from God (1). This domain of Satanic beings is described in Ephesians (2). The good news is Jesus "disarmed principalities and powers" and "made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it" (3).



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## the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven Default

**3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven.** The Old Testament prophets were very graphic in their description of God on the throne: whirlwinds, bright colors, lightning, thunder and raging fires. The apostle Paul, caught up into the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven, heard "inexpressible words" (4).

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven Default.** The challenge for us today is setting (and resetting) our minds on things "which are above, **where Christ is**, sitting at the right hand of God... not on things of the earth" (5). What does that mean?

**What it does NOT mean.** Setting your mind on things above does not mean "trashing your brain". Paul rules out irresponsible behavior with "put to death your members (bad habits) which are on this earth" (6). Our lives are to be so "hidden in Christ" that He is all that people see. With your mind in the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven:

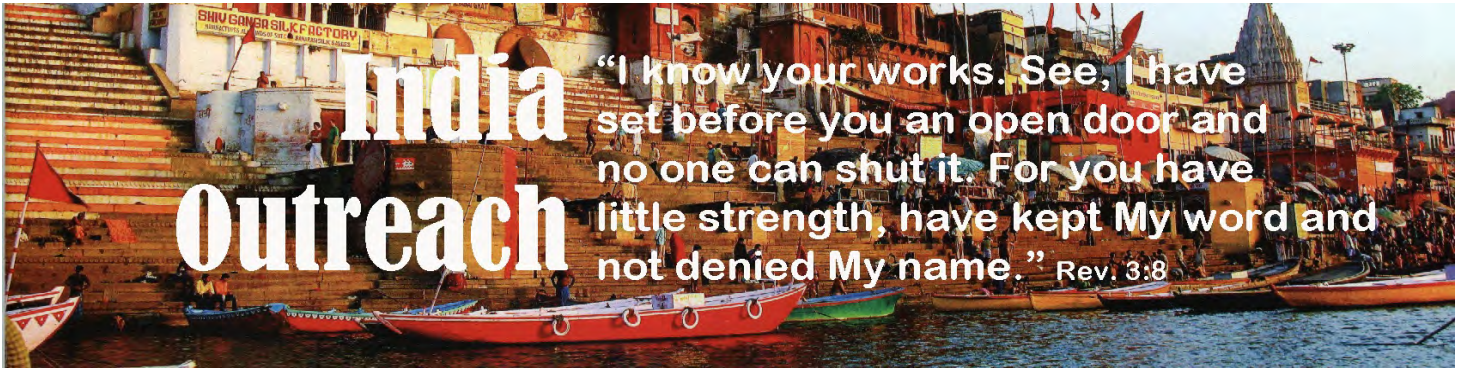
**What DO we see?** Paul answers: "where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God" (7). "Seated" is significant in that once Jesus completed His mission, He sat down. His work on our behalf is done. "Right hand" signifies Christ has been given all power. Jesus, Who was the "express image of God" (8), shows us a **different picture of our Father** than the one painted by the

prophets (above). He is a Dad Who gives only good gifts (9). His Spirit prompts us to call Him "Abba" or Daddy (10).

**What do you hear?** Keeping your mind in the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven causes you to hear differently. Listen. "Joint heirs with Christ, redeemed, adopted, sanctified, seated with Christ, every spiritual blessing, His child" (11). The list is endless. One word or idea that is repeated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven is "**NOW**". From the 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven you will hear, "Not now. Later. Tomorrow or yesterday." But God says, "Now- is your day of salvation, healing, deliverance. Today is your miracle." Cut through the static of Satan and claim your inheritance NOW.

**YOU have changed!** "When Christ Who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (12). Keeping your head in the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven, changes your reality, your life, even the way you look. When He appears (in your private time with Him), you are beginning to look like Him, or (at the end of time) leaving this earth will be "seamless"- a smooth transition. Fill your mind with the word of God and **set** (and reset) your mind on things above.

Ref: 1) Dan. 7:9, 2) Eph. 6:12, 3) Col. 2:15, 4) II Cor. 12:2-4, 5) Col. 3:1-2, 6) Col. 3:5-9, 7) Col. 3:5, 8) Heb. 1:3, 9) Lk. 11:13, 10) Rom. 8:15, 11) Eph. 1:3-13, 12) Col. 3:4



**The Call.** Last year this Scripture (above) was given to us from a group of people who pray consistently for our ministry, We believe Jesus is talking to us, and India is that open door. Although The Picture-Smart Bible is being used internationally, The India trip, scheduled for October, will be our most significant outreach.

**The Need.** India is 74% Hindu, 14% Muslim, and 5.84% Christian. There are 400 million children in the 10-14 age range, plus 35 million orphans who are **in desperate need for Bible curriculum** they can understand. Although there have been very successful, ongoing evangelistic crusades in India, statistics present a staggering need for Christian education and discipleship. Without training for pastors and their flocks, the enemy can destroy the seed. Curriculum materials are not available in many areas- those which exists are old and outdated. The need is **GREAT-** for the church and for all the people of India.

**Abjihit Nayak**, a student at Fuller Seminary working on his doctorate, discovered The Picture-Smart Bible at the CHEA convention last year and immediately exclaimed, "This is for God's children in India". Subsequently, in one-on-one contacts with Christian leaders in 7 key cities, Abjihit shared his vision for TPSB in India. The reception was excellent and the leaders were given registration packets announcing a Fall seminar in their facility. Abjihit has also set up PT reps who will coordinate the seminars, and follow-up contacts. To make presentations we must have curriculum, so Abjihit contacted printers in India to obtain estimated costs for an initial run. He has also been given property

on which he intends to construct an office building, in which PictureThis! will share office space.

**The Itinerary:** Major cities in which we will be presenting: Mumbai, Banalore, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwai, Dispur, Nohima, and Calcutta. Our audience in each of these cities will be Senior Pastors, Church and School Administrators, Sunday School and Christian School Teachers. In one location, Dan will also be teaching school children. Because most India churches do not have an overhead projector, one of our most **critical challenges** is developing a way for teachers to present TPSB.

**Fulfilling our Mission.** PictureThis Ministries is accurately described in Revelation 3:8: **"You have a little strength"**. PictureThis! is a small non-profit organization who, like many ministries, "stretch" to keep moving forward. But we have a faithful God with Whom all things are possible, and faithful friends like you who stand with us. **"Have kept My word."** His word is the total purpose of our existence. **"Have not denied My name"**. "Ministry on the Way" is now part of our modus operandi. We share Jesus going, coming and in between (see letter from Michele below).

**Big Projects require big prayer.** We have 8 months to pray and plan for this outreach. Please pray that God will give us favor with the airlines, the presentations, pastors, teachers, students, equipment, shipments, the weather and anything else that comes to mind. We are totally excited about what God is going to do with this outreach and we know you share our excitement. If you want to be a part financially, please indicate on your gift "India". Thanks.

***Michele Shaver, one of our (on fire) reps, is hosting Bonnie, a student from Korea. Here are excerpts from her letter.***

"This morning as we were finishing up our study on the book of Matthew, we read about the parable of the Vineyard. (I loved how you show the "veil" being torn in two, Jesus riding in on a donkey, not a horse, the net, etc. After our study, we prayed as usual and then came the BIG question: Bonnie said "Ms. Michele, am I a Christian?" Stunned, excited, speechless (for a moment), I responded with a question, "I don't know, Bonnie. Do you want to be?" "Yes!" came her answer and all the reasons why she wanted to be a Christian. She understood the difference between Heaven (life with God) and Hell (excruciating separation from Him) and she wanted to be with Him. She desires to tell others about Him and use her gifts for His glory. I told Bonnie that Jesus says to confess with her mouth what she believes; she did- all by herself.

My younger daughter Brynne listening, said that she too, wanted to be a follower of Christ. She was ready to surrender. How much more special PT is to me! What a testimony that I have to share at conventions, and my children were there to see the Gospel in action! Bless you all for being true to the Word. The more I do PT with my kids the more I am honored to share it with others."

**MAR/APR CONVENTIONS**

- 3/15-17 Teach Diligently (Maria)
- 3/22-24 SE HE Conv. (Nadja)
- 3/22-24 NWCEC (Becki)
- 4/12-14 MACHE (Michele)
- 4/19-21 Midwest (Dan)
- 4/26-28 MASSHOPE (Dan)
- 4/26-28 Christian Herit. (Becki)

**HOME SCHOOL PARENTS/TEACHERS:**

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