

# REMINDER

Volume XVII

August 7, 2011

Number 31

## HEAVEN IS FOR REAL: A DANGEROUS BOOK FOR AN APOSTATE AGE

by Evangelist David Cloud



*Heaven Is For Real*, a book about a four-year-old boy's supposed visit to heaven, has sold over 1.5 million copies and is currently the # 6 best seller on Amazon. It has broken Thomas Nelson's sales records and is popular with many Baptists. One pastor told me that it is "circulating around many of our Baptist camps; many are recommending it." The book is the true story of Colton Burpo, a Methodist pastor's son who allegedly visits heaven during emergency surgery. There he meets a dead sister and great grandfather, sees Jesus and God the Father and the Holy Spirit and Satan, and learns things not revealed in Scripture. We don't doubt that the little boy is convinced that he visited heaven, but we don't believe for a minute that it actually happened.

First, the book is contrary to the testimony of the Apostle Paul, who said that he was the last to see the resurrected Christ (I Cor. 15:8). This experience is described in the book of Acts and there is no further mention of Christ appearing to anyone. Paul gave this testimony in the context of giving the eyewitness evidence for Christ's resurrection. All of the evidence we need is found in the testimony of Scripture and in these particular eyewitnesses. Further, Paul said that when he had visited heaven, he heard things that he was not allowed to repeat (II Cor. 12:4). Obviously, then, a person cannot visit heaven and then describe whatever he sees and hears there. Second, the book *Heaven Is for Real* is contrary God's emphasis on the priority and sufficiency of faith and Scripture.

The book contains testimonies of how people have

believed in God and heaven because of Colton's alleged visitation, but the Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6), and faith comes by hearing God's Word, not by signs and wonders (Romans 10:17). In his account of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus taught that if someone does not hear the Scriptures, he will not "be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

All of the signs and revelation we need are found in the completed canon of Scripture (John 20:30-31). The Bible is able to make the man of God "*perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (II Timothy 3:16-17). God has told us everything He wants us to know about heaven at this time.

Third, the book *Heaven Is for Real* is contrary to the Bible's plain teachings. For example, Colton says Jesus' horse is rainbow-colored (p. 63), whereas the Bible says it is white (Rev. 19:11). Colton says the Holy Spirit shoots down power from heaven (p. 125), whereas the Bible says the Holy Spirit came from heaven at Pentecost and He is the power (Acts 1:8). Colton says everyone has wings in heaven except Jesus (p. 72), that the angel Gabriel sits on the left hand of God's throne (p. 101), that the Holy Spirit is blue and sits in a chair near the throne of God (p. 102), and "for our Catholic friends" the book is happy to report that Mary stands in heaven beside Jesus (p. 152).

Some might ask, how Colton could learn secrets about his dead sister who died in the womb and facts about his

(continued inside on Page 3)



Dr. H. A.  
Ironside

# Eternal Security of the Believer

by the late Dr. Harry A. Ironside  
(continued from last week)

## Eternal Life Possessed Now

In the last place, we rest the truth of the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer upon the fact that the believer is the present possessor of eternal life. It is not merely that if we are faithful to the end we shall receive eternal life. There is a sense in which that is true; there is a sense in which our hope is eternal life. I am a Christian now if I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; believing on Him I have eternal life, but I have it in a dying body. I am now waiting for the redemption of the body, and when the Lord Jesus comes the second time He shall change this body of my humiliation and make it like unto the body of His glory. Then I shall have received eternal life in all its fullness, spirit, soul, and body, entirely conformed to Christ. In that sense I am hoping for eternal life. But over and over and over again, Scripture rings the changes on the fact that every believer is at the present time in possession of eternal life.

***“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14-15).***

Adam’s life was *forfeitable* life; he lost his life because of sin. Eternal life is *nonforfeitable* life, otherwise it would not be eternal. ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*** Everlasting life is life that lasts forever, and we have it now.

***“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).***

***“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).***

## His Sheep Follow Him

I have purposely left this point until last because people generally take it for granted it will be the first passage used in taking up this subject. In John 10:27 we are told, ***“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”*** Notice these three things. It matters not what profession a man makes, if he does not hear the voice of the Son of God he is not a Christian, and therefore the Savior does not know him as His own. No matter what profession he may make, if he does not follow the Lord Jesus Christ, he is only a sham and a fraud and a hypocrite. He may follow for a little while outwardly, like those of whom the

apostle Peter speaks, who walk in the way of righteousness and then turn from it. ***“But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” (II Peter 2:22).*** If that dog had ever been regenerated and become a sheep, if that sow had ever been changed and become a lamb, neither would have gone back to the filth; but, you see, the dog was always a dog, and the sow was always a sow. They were just whitewashed, not washed white, they were never regenerated, and so went back to the old things. But the sheep of Christ are different. ***“They follow Me,”*** Jesus says. Be careful. Do not profess to be one of His sheep if you do not follow Him. It is the test of reality. There are many people who tell us, “At such and such a time I was converted, I went forward, I signed a card.” You can do all of these things and be lost forever. What you need is a new birth; and when you are born again, you get a new life; and when you receive a new life, you love to follow Jesus; and if you do not, you are not a Christian. Think about it; examine your own foundations a bit.

## A Dangerous Doctrine?

People say, *“If you preach this doctrine of the eternal security of the believer, men will say, ‘Well, then it doesn’t make any difference what I do, I will get to heaven anyway.’”* It makes a tremendous difference what you do. If you do not behave yourself, it shows that you are not a real Christian. I know that a real Christian may fail, but the difference can be seen in Peter and Judas. Peter failed, and failed terribly, but he was genuine, and one look from Jesus sent him out weeping bitterly; his heart was broken to think that he had so dishonored his Lord. But Judas accompanied with the Lord almost three-and-a-half years and was a devil all the time; he was a thief and was seeking his own interest. He was even made the treasurer of that company and he held the bag, but we read, ***“He bare [away] what was put therein” (John 12:6),*** as this has been literally translated. At last remorse overtook him, not genuine repentance, and what was the result? He went and hanged himself. He was never a child of God. There is a great difference, you see, between a Christian and a false professor.

## Justified By Faith

***“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life.”*** Do you believe it? I do not understand how people can read a passage like that and then talk about a Christian losing his life. It would not be eternal if it could be lost. ***“And they shall never perish, neither shall any***

*man pluck them out of My hand.*” The original is very strong here. In the English a double negative makes an affirmative, but in Greek it only strengthens a declaration. *“They shall never, no never, perish.”* It is impossible, it is unthinkable, that one who has eternal life shall ever perish.

*“My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.”*

Here I am, a poor lost sinner, but the Lord in grace picks me up and saves me, and I am in His hand. And now the Father puts His hand around too, and I am in the hand of the Father and of the Son, and the devil himself cannot get me unless he can loosen those hands. Could you think of any greater security than to be in the hands of the Father and of the Son? *“Never perish,” “eternal life” - what wondrous words are these!* Do not be afraid of God’s truth. You might as well be afraid of the beginning of the gospel that God can freely forgive and justify a guilty sinner by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. People try to put guards around that truth and say, “Yes, you are justified by faith if you have enough good works to add to it.” **That is not true.** It is by faith *alone*, and good works spring from that. When you know you have eternal life, you will find your heart so filled with love for Christ that you will try to live for His glory.

- more next week

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**HEAVEN IS FOR REAL** (continued from Page 1) -

great grandfather that he had not been told. The answer is demons. Paul warned that Satan transforms himself into an angel of light and his ministers as ministers of righteousness (II Cor. 11:14-15).

The book **Heaven Is for Real** also promotes the visions of child progeny Akiane Kramarik, who began “seeing heaven” at age four (pp. 141-144). Colton claims that the “Jesus” that he saw in heaven is the same “Jesus” that Akiane drew from her visions at age nine. But Akiane’s religious faith is a New Age type faith in a vaguely defined “God.” It is religious mysticism rather than faith in an infallible Revelation from God and the blood atonement of Christ. Even if we knew what Jesus looked like, we are forbidden by God’s law to make His likeness (Exodus 20:4). ■

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### **NORWAY MASS MURDERER ACTUALLY A PAGAN DARWINIST**

The following is excerpted from *“Terrorist Proclaimed Himself Darwinian,”* WorldNetDaily, July 24, 2011:

“A review of Anders Behring Breivik’s 1,500-page manifesto shows the media’s quick characterization of the Norwegian terrorist as a ‘Christian’ may be as incorrect as it was to call Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh one. Breivik was arrested over the weekend, charged with a pair of brutal attacks in and near Oslo, Norway, including a bombing in the capital city

that killed 7 and a shooting spree at a youth political retreat on the island of Utoya that killed nearly 80 victims.

Piecing together Breivik’s various posts on the Internet, many media reports have characterized the terrorist - who says he was upset over the multiculturalist policies stemming from Norway’s Labour Party - as a ‘right-wing, Christian fundamentalist.’ Yet, while McVeigh rejected God altogether, Breivik writes in his manifesto that he is not religious, has doubts about God’s existence, does not pray, but does assert the primacy of Europe’s ‘Christian culture’ as well as his own pagan Nordic culture.

Breivik instead hails *Charles Darwin*, whose evolutionary theories stand in contrast to the claims of the Bible, and affirms: *‘As for the Church and science, it is essential that science takes an undisputed precedence over biblical teachings. Europe has always been the cradle of science, and it must always continue to be that way. Regarding my personal relationship with God, I guess I’m not an excessively religious man. I am first and foremost a man of logic. However, I am a supporter of a monocultural Christian Europe.’* ... Over and over again, Breivik goes out of his way to make clear to readers of his manifesto that he is not motivated by Christian faith. ‘I’m not going to pretend I’m a very religious person, as that would be a lie,’ he says. ‘I’ve always been very pragmatic and influenced by my secular surroundings and environment...’”

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### **SEEING EYE FISH**

The snapping shrimp has very poor eyesight, while the goby has excellent eyesight. Both share the same burrow, which is dug by the shrimp and guarded by the goby. The shrimp uses the goby as a blind person uses a Seeing Eye dog. Whenever the shrimp is outside its burrow, it always keeps one antenna on the goby. The shrimp stays hidden inside the burrow if the goby should temporarily swim away. When danger approaches, the goby signals and disappears inside the burrow. The shrimp is right behind him. Neither the goby nor the shrimp can survive without each other, so pairs are established for life when both goby and shrimp are very young.

In order for this system to work, both goby and shrimp reproductive systems, which differ greatly, are synchronized so that shrimp and goby youngsters are ready to pair at the same time. The goby relies on the safety of the complex tunnel system the shrimp digs. The shrimp is well designed for digging. Once a tunnel is started, the shrimp can dig a burrow large enough for both itself and the goby within a few hours. Each of its five pairs of legs is specialized. The first pair of claws is designed for carrying sediment out of the burrow. The second pair of legs is designed to probe for and clean objects as well as scratching sediment from walls. Pairs three, four and five are walking legs that also work well for scratching material from tunnel walls. On its abdomen, the shrimp has several appendages that allow it to move rapidly to protection. Other appendages can create water currents that shift sand back from the digging site. The snapping shrimp, which is less than two inches long, can dig a system of

tunnels covering several square feet within a few days. The burrow will have several entrances, as much as four feet apart. All lead to a chamber at the deepest point of the system.

The Creator has given both the goby and the shrimp different gifts that they both need to live. If they did not share their gifts with each other, neither could survive. What gifts has the Creator given you to share? - *Creation Moments, 06/23 & 24/2011*

**NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK**

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly  
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly  
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford  
 Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford  
 Wed. Evening Service ---- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White  
 Cradle Roll 2: Rebekah White

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

*Week of July 31, 2011*

Sunday School ----- 22  
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 35  
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 25

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

*Week of July 31, 2010*

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 857.64  
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 23.00  
**Total Received for Week of 07/31/11: \$ 880.64**

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00**

**INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR JULY:**

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08  
 Amount Received during July, 2011 ----- \$ 64.00  
**Amount Short For July, 2011: - \$ 209.08**

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**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**

**Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!**



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White ----- Pastor  
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist  
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian  
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers  
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,  
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin ----- Outreach  
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White