



BIBLE REFLECTIONS

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This Newsletter

The purpose of this Newsletter is to provide you with answers to certain biblical facts which have been misconstrued or misunderstood.

Q: Who are our readers?

A: Anyone interested in matters of faith.

Q: What will our readers want to know?

A: Timely, helpful, problem-solving information regarding the Bible.

As previously discussed, Christian 'fake news' comes from inaccurate propositions we refer to as 'doctrines'. However, I contend that the most effective source of 'fake gospel news' actually comes in the form of songs and hymns which are used in church or which become integral to believers' subconscious minds. We all love songs because they meet our subconscious faith expectations. They form a powerful axis of 'truth' which is virtually impossible to break as will be demonstrated below.

Fake News: 'We are going home to heaven.' For as long as I can remember, I have heard Christians talk about how one day we will be home in heaven. Those who believe in the immortality of the soul claim that this happens at the moment of death, a person's soul is united with Jesus in heaven and they are home. Those who do not subscribe to this concept nevertheless believe that when Jesus returns, all believers shall go to heaven to be with him for eternity. We write songs about this: 'When we all get to heaven', 'I'm homesick for heaven', 'Finally home', 'Almost home', 'Beulah land', 'This world is not my home', 'Heaven is our home', 'Meet me in heaven', 'My home over there'. The list is endless. I was in a worship programme a long time ago when this happened: The song leader got up and announced the first song, 'This world is not my home'. The second song was, 'This is my Father's world'. I was amazed at the lack of comprehension as to the obvious contradiction.

Fact Check: Scripture paints a very different picture. When we read the story of the first creation in Genesis we can only conclude that planet earth was created as the home for humans. No other possibility is provided. The promise of Jesus is John 14 about preparing a place for us should be read in conjunction with Rev 21-22. The place Jesus is preparing is the 'new heaven and new earth' (see also Isa 65-66). Revelation 20 tells us we will be in heaven for 1,000 years (biblical code for a very long time) but the book ends with the New Jerusalem and all the redeemed returning to planet earth for eternity. Further, Revelation asserts that God himself will relocate the centre of his government to planet earth. Clearly, heaven is a long vacation and a working one at that. Heaven is not home! Earth is and will always be home for humans. Songs and hymns which say otherwise are definitely false gospel.

I am drawn to the following assertion of Paul, 'What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with my understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with my understanding.' (1 Cor 14.15 HCSB). I suggest this maxim should be our *modus operandi* when we contemplate theological and biblical truths. In a world filled with 'fake news', the Church should be the bearer of real good news not more 'fake news'.

