

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

When my daughter was very young, she spent the night at a friend's house. During the course of the night, the phone rang and I heard the words, fighting through tears, "Dad, I really want to come home. Would you come and get me?"

People who have been away for some time state, "It's so good to be home!" Faithful men and women whose health has suffered state, "I'm ready to go home!"

Home. There is something special about home. **"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go and prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."** (John 14:2-3) Home. A place prepared for us to live. A place of rest. **"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them."** (Heb. 11:16) Home. A safe haven in the presence of God. **"For we walk by faith, not by sight- we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."** (II Cor. 5:7-8) Home. A place that gives encouragement and strength. A place of comfort. Paul was ready to go home and be with the Lord when he said, *"having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better."* (Phil. 1:23) Home. It is the better place because of Christ.

How many of us see the reality of home? Do we really want to go home? Are we more comfortable in this temporary place that's filled with sin and death, decaying each and every day? Are we eagerly awaiting our Lord Jesus? Do you pray, "Come, Lord Jesus?" People speak about how they want to go to heaven, but not just yet. That reveals a lot about our spiritual insight.

Paul closes his letter to the Corinthians with the word, *"Maranatha"*. (I Cor. 16:22) It means, "O Lord come!" Is heaven the home we really desire? Do you long for and miss home? Maybe we need to examine whom we are living for and where we place our priorities. Think about it!!!

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