

Dwelling with God

by David McWilliams

In John 14:23, Jesus is responding to a question from one of His disciples about His coming departure. He states, *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."*

Jesus' words to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:20-21 express a similar idea.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

To dwell with the Lord, we must hear His voice and open the door. We must then faithfully keep His word. If we will hear and obey, we can dwell with God.

In Luke 12:35-40, Jesus speaks a parable in which a master does the unexpected. The master becomes the servant. The master seats his servants at the table and serves them, but only those servants who were watching for and anticipating his return. If we hear and obey our Master's voice, we will be ready for His return.

In Ephesians 2:19-22, Paul tells those in Ephesus who are hearing, obeying, and watching, that they are being built together for a dwelling place of God. John describes a vision he had of this dwelling place in Revelation 21:1-3. *"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God...'"*

Jesus tells His disciples in John 14:1-6 that He alone holds the key to this dwelling place.

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. And 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. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Thomas said to Him, *"Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"* Jesus said to him, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me..."*

If you want to dwell with God, to live in His house, to dine with Him, the only way to get through the door is with Jesus. He has made all the preparations. It is our responsibility to hear Him, to obey Him, and to be ready for His return.

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