

IF WE'RE IN HEAVEN AND KNOW SOME OF OUR LOVED ONES AREN'T THERE, WILL WE BE HAPPY?

Perhaps a bigger concern for the moment is, how unhappy are we right NOW about our loved ones who are not Christians or unfaithful Christians? I'm not happy about it, are you? But, that does not prevent me nor hinder me from serving and worshiping God acceptably. How much effort are we exerting to teach them and encourage them to obey the Gospel? If we were more unhappy about it, would we do more to teach and warn them?

It's not possible for us to have control over others. Nor can we make them obey the Lord and live faithful Christian lives. We certainly can teach, counsel, advise, warn, beg and plead and pray for our loved ones (and everyone else) to obey God. But, we can't make them obey. What we can do live is be a good example and influence for them. We can pray for them. But we cannot live their life for them. God made it that way. Each one is responsible for him/herself and no other. Would you like for someone to have control over you and make all your choices for you? I wouldn't, and I don't think you would either.

The Scriptures are clear concerning our state of mind in heaven. "*And God shall **wipe away all tears** from their eyes; and there shall be no*

more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4). How God will make this happen is not my concern. The Bible simply says that is the way it will be. God will take care of it.

First John 3:20 has some bearing on this subject as well. "*For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*" God will take care of it. We often may feel inadequate and down on ourselves, but we need not be. God wants us to be saved and has provided what is necessary so we can be saved. When we comply with His commands, He will take care of the rest.

Another thing to consider is that our relationship with one another will be different in heaven than it is on earth. Jesus said, "*For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven*" (Matt. 22:30). What God has in store for us, we do not completely know right now, but we do know it will be wonderful and beyond our imagination.

The time is NOW that we prepare for that day. Are YOU ready?

— Garland M. Robinson