

Will Heaven Be Divided Up Into Sections?

(Written by Joe Keim)

Has it ever crossed your mind as to how God is setting up heaven for all the different people groups who live on earth? Is He setting it up in such a way that in one area you have the English people; go a little further and you find the Hutterites; go a little further and find the Chinese, go a little further and now we come to the Amish section of heaven. Or do you think that once we get to heaven we will all live together as one big happy family?

The answer is clear! We WILL all live together as a big family. God's family! There will not be any more differences, divisions or "I am better than thou" attitudes. My question then, why is it that way now? Why are we so divided?

- **Can** a man who was born and raised Amish, not serve God any other way except in his own group?
- **Does** the Amish church really have God's Word backing them up when it comes to excommunicating one of its member's **because** they left the group? Even if he continues to serve God in another Bible believing, Christ honoring group?
- **Is** it really true that God will condemn that person to everlasting hell **because** he left his own people group? Drove a car for transportation in stead of a horse and buggy? Wore a store bought shirt instead of a homemade one?

The answer is very simple. If it were true that a man or woman got saved from hell, sins forgiven and their name written in the Book of Life, **because** of the church or people group they belonged to, then the answer is, **YES**—the church has every right to excommunicate that person.

But, if it is not the church or people group that saves the sinner from hell, forgives the sin or writes a man or woman's name in the Book of Life then the answer has to be **NO**—the church does not have the right to excommunicate the person.

If any man or woman in the world today gets saved, sins forgiven and their name written in the Book of Life, it is **ONLY because** they trusted Jesus Christ as their only way of salvation. Years ago I heard a man try to explain how he felt all the different churches and people groups get to heaven. He said, "I *think* the way it works is like this, people are going up the mountain on all sides but when they get to the top they all come together at the same place". Now, the man's answer sounds great and even reasonable but what does God say.

Jesus clearly teaches us that **He alone** is the only way. Look what Jesus told us in John 14:6.

JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.

Jesus did not say that he is *one way* to the Father but rather He is the *only way*!

And again we are told the same thing in Acts 4:12.

NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED.

Noah's Ark was a picture of the coming Christ. Do you know how many doors were in Noah's Ark? **Answer:** Only one door! If you wanted to be saved from the flood you had to go through that door. Look what Jesus calls himself in John 10:9.

I AM THE DOOR: BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN, HE SHALL BE SAVED...

That brings us to another thought. If it is true that the Baptist, the Mennonite and the Hutterite has to enter through Jesus (the door) to be saved then so does the Amish man.

The Bible teaches us that it makes no difference what our background is, anyone can call on the Lord for salvation.

FOR THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE JEW AND THE GREEK: FOR THE SAME LORD OVER ALL IS RICH UNTO ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM. **Romans 10:12**

Again we are told in **Galatians 3:28**...THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, THERE IS NEITHER BOND NOR FREE, THERE IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE: FOR YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.

God wants everyone to be saved according to **1 Tim. 2:4**...WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, AND TO COME UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.

For several thousand years God looked at the Jews as His special group of people but Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 2 that because of the cross, Jesus was able to tear down the wall that separated the Jew from the Gentile. We are told in **Ephesians 2:14-16**...

FOR HE [JESUS] IS OUR PEACE, WHO HATH MADE BOTH [JEW & GENTILE] ONE, AND HATH BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION *BETWEEN US*; HAVING ABOLISHED IN HIS FLESH THE ENMITY, *EVEN* THE LAW OF COMMANDMENTS *CONTAINED* IN ORDINANCES; FOR TO MAKE IN HIMSELF OF TWAIN ONE NEW MAN, *SO* MAKING PEACE; AND THAT HE MIGHT RECONCILE BOTH [JEW & GENTILE] UNTO GOD IN ONE BODY BY THE CROSS, HAVING SLAIN THE ENMITY THEREBY:

Clearly, we all come to God through one door, Jesus Christ. This is how...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**

John wrote in **Revelations 5:9** AND THEY [BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS] SANG A NEW SONG, SAYING, THOU ART WORTHY TO TAKE THE BOOK, AND TO OPEN THE SEALS THEREOF: FOR THOU WAST SLAIN, AND HAST REDEEMED US TO GOD BY THY BLOOD OUT OF EVERY KINDRED, AND TONGUE, AND PEOPLE, AND NATION;

Will you have a part in singing that new song that John is talking about Revelations 5:9? If you are, I can promise you, it will not be because you lived a good Amish life or because you were an outstanding member in the Amish church. It will be because you got born again somewhere in your journey here on earth.

The Bible tells us in 2 Peter 3:9...THE LORD IS NOT SLACK CONCERNING HIS PROMISE, AS SOME MEN COUNT SLACKNESS; BUT IS LONGSUFFERING TO US-WARD, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE

Some scriptures to think about

CHRIST HATH REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW, BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US... (Galatians 3:13).

IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE (Ephesians 1:7).

WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY, AND PURIFY UNTO HIMSELF A PECULIAR PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS (Titus 2:14)

MUCH MORE THEN, BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM (Romans 5:9)