Heaven

By Al Wezeman

If you ask or could ask billions of people on this earth where they would prefer to be after this life, they would probably like to be in a better place, which is often referred to as Heaven. The Heaven they would be referring to would be a noun and singular because there is only one Heaven and it is a definite place. This may seem a mundane point and old as the hills, but bear with the thought, as it is an eternal thought.

Describing Heaven is as broad a field as the billions of people and their religion and culture. Most people do not get very specific, but simply say Heaven and hell, thinking both are real definite places. Heaven is a good place and Hell is a bad place. Heaven is a pure, holy perfect place and Hell is a horrible, dirty ugly place.

A deeper question to ask is, "How does one expect to be allowed into the better place?" Now we must deal with the individual person and what they must do to gain access. Again, if you ask many people you will get many different thoughts. Probably the main thought is: What do I have to do?

Before we can try to answer that question, we need to look carefully at our present place and the place we hope to enter after we leave here. This world is filled with violence; (just watch TV or read all about it in whatever). We know we are prone to what is referred to as sin. If we are honest with ourselves in thoughts, words, or deeds we see it. We do live in sinful bodies in a sinful world.

On the other hand, Heaven is not sinful. In fact, Heaven is perfect. Absolute perfection is hard to imagine. The only true living God of Heaven and earth is absolutely pure, holy and perfect in every way.

So the question remains. How do I, as a sinful person, get through that door of Heaven to enjoy eternal bliss with the awesome Creator of the universe? Can I tidy myself up enough? Can I beg the mercy of a loving God? Problem: God is also a perfect judge. A perfect judge demands perfect justice. Every sin has consequences. How can we get around this problem? We can't. What? Then we are doomed to the consequence of perfect justice.

But wait! The Holy Bible tells me that God has provided a way around the predicament. We now have hope! God is not only a God of perfect justice, but also of perfect love. We read the Gospel of John and find that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to make the sacrifice of His body to satisfy the wrath of God against my sin. Amazingly, God now declares me purified from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). How can this be? John 3:16 tells me, "whoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall not perish (Hell) but have eternal life." Read all of the Gospel of John and especially John 3 to get the full picture. Ask Jesus to come into your heart today. He will. Then ask Him to lead and guide you to live for Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. He will!•

Our two cents

By Reverend R.A. Shackles

We're a bit tired of the big to-do so many in the media are making over the very "up-front" way in which Denver's Tim Tebow openly affirms his faith in God, especially as "I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Given the obvious anti-Christian sentiment of a large portion of the media, we are hardly surprised by ridicule of this young man. To say the least, they are acting in very poor taste. To say even more, they reveal their penchant for opinion masquerading as news.

Having said that, our opinion is that those who find Tebow's open faith objectionable are frankly totally missing this young man's integrity. Critics insist he is suggesting that God is taking a special hand in the outcome of the Denver Bronco's games. We suggest critics pay closer attention. No one can show that in any way this is his intention, let alone claim.

Remember, this is a young man who is the son of parents who are Christian missionaries, parents whose whole lives are a service to Christ Jesus. Tim Tebow was raised in faith, a faith he clearly wholeheartedly believes. What is more, he lives by it. A young man obviously blessed with superb talent, he clearly takes no credit for it; his publicly affirmed faith is clearly gratitude for his blessings and humble acknowledgment that he is playing his best as any convinced, faithful Christian should do.

The way we see it, Tebow is not implying that because his faith is so special God gratefully gave the Broncos a victory. To say that is to insult both Tebow and God! We believe Tebow is as much expressing joy that he has used his gifts as fully as he could, and that he sees what he has done as his gift to God, the God to whom his life is devoted. We would suggest that you should recall that Tebow has been as grateful to God in defeat as in victory. We should be overjoyed that such a young man affirms his love for our Lord openly, humbly. What a great example to everyone, especially our impressionable young people. We acclaim this young man without hesitation. We just wish the media had a better appreciation of what they are talking about!•

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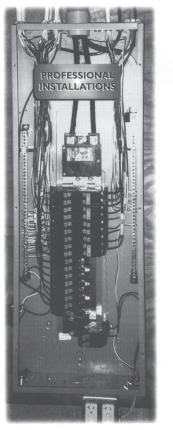

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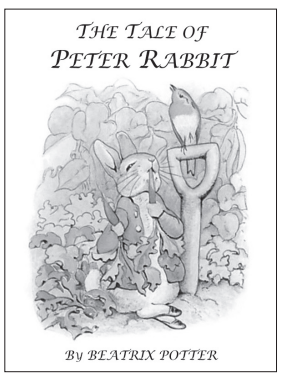

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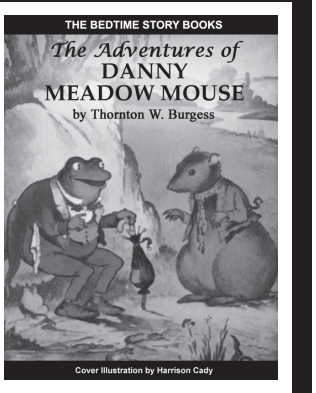

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