

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 2:11-13**.
- B. The Godhead is omniscient, they know all things. It is impossible to hide from God.
- C. In His ministry, Jesus could read the thoughts of men (see Jn. 5:42).
- D. In our scripture reading, Jesus says that He knows where we dwell. The question then is, "Do we know where we dwell?"

I. JESUS KNOWS OUR SITUATION; WHERE WE DWELL.

- A. For example, look at all things Jesus knows about the church in Pergamum (Rev. 2:13-17):
 - 1. The church was in a very sinful city, "where Satan's throne is."
 - 2. Some were faithful in the midst of this sinful town.
 - 3. Some had become martyrs for the faith and this is commendable.
 - 4. But others were compromisers of the truth.
 - 5. Those in error needed to repent.
- B. Jesus (and God) knew both the good and the bad of this situation.
- C. May I suggest other places that people might dwell...

II. SOME DWELL IN INFANCY.

- A. Infants do not inherit the sin of their parents, and certainly not Adam's (Ezek. 18:20).
"The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself."
- B. Children are "safe" but not saved because they have no sin (Mt. 18:3-4, 10; Heb. 2:14).
(Mt 18:3-4,10) and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.
(Heb 2:14) Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil;
- C. I believe those whom we would consider as mentally handicapped are to be spiritually considered, as infants.

III. SOME DWELL IN ADOLESCENCE.

- A. What a wonderful time of life! Enjoy it young people, you have a great blessing right now.
- B. But Paul remembered this stage as when he became aware of his sin (Rom. 7:9).
And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died;
- C. May our teenagers respond to life like Jesus did (Lk. 2:52).
And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

IV. SOME DWELL IN ATHEISM (OR AGNOSTICISM).

- A. God has made it very plain that He exists (Rom. 1:18-20). No excuses!
For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
- B. Those who do not know God will be eternally lost (2Th. 1:8).
dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

V. **SOME DWELL IN FALSE DOCTRINE.**

- A. Jesus spoke of people who will try to lead us astray (Mt. 24:24).
“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”
- B. Great damage is done by people giving false security (2Tim. 3:6,7; Titus 1:10-11,15-16).
(2Tim 3:6-7) For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
(Ti 1:10-11,15-16) For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain. **15** To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

VI. **SOME DWELL IN IGNORANCE, SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH.**

- A. Those who earnest search for the truth will be rewarded (Heb. 11:6; Mt. 7:7).
(Heb 11:6) And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
(Mt 7:7) “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.”
- B. Those who believe in God and want to know more, shall! Remember the examples of the queen’s treasurer (Ac. 8:26-34), Saul of Tarsus (9:6), and Cornelius (10:1-4).

VII. **SOME DWELL AS A CHRISTIAN.**

- A. This is what life is all about. So many verses could be quoted (Eph. 1:3,13).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- B. Christians are a member of God’s family, the church (Col. 1:13; 1Jn. 3:1a).
(Col 1:13) For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
(1Jn 3:1a) See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are.

VIII. **SOME DWELL AS A SPIRITUALLY DEAD CHRISTIAN.**

- A. This state must be repented of, if one wants to go to heaven (Heb. 10:26-27; 2Pet. 2:20-21).
(Heb 10:26-27) For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.
(2Pet 2:20-21) For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.
- B. Xians have a responsibility to help erring children of God (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20).
(Gal 6:1) Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.
(Jas 5:19-20) My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

IX. **SOME DWELL AS A PHYSICALLY DEAD CHRISTIAN.**

- A. There are eternal guarantees for those dwelling in this state (2Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23).
(2Cor 5:8) we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.
(Phil 1:23) But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

- B. This is the eternal rest from our struggle against sin (Rev. 14:13).
And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'"
"Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

X. **SOME DWELL AS A PHYSICALLY DEAD NON-CHRISTIAN.**

- A. This is the saddest state of all. Eternal separation from God awaits these (Rev. 14:11).
"And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."
- B. The judgment day of God will be the eternal doom of these people (Rev. 20:15; 21:8).
(Rev 20:15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
(Rev 21:8) "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. X knows where you dwell. Do you?
B. Do you have friends and family who are dwelling in some areas they should not?
C. Of the 10 areas mentioned only 3 give eternal life (infancy, a Xian, and a physically dead Xian).
D. Now, are you dwelling in indifference, apathy, or in action toward these folks?
E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.