

The background of the slide is a warm, glowing orange and yellow gradient, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. On the right side, two hands are shown in silhouette, reaching out towards the center. On the left side, a dove is shown in flight, also in silhouette. The title "Tears in Heaven?" is written in a black, serif font across the center, with the hands and dove appearing to frame it.

"Tears in Heaven?"

Curt Deming
Melbourne Community Church
August 26, 2018

David Lloyd George:

“When I was a boy, the thought of Heaven used to frighten me more than the thought of Hell. I pictured Heaven as a place where time would be perpetual Sundays, with perpetual services from which there would be no escape.”

What will we learn?

- ❖ The present Heaven is above us, but it will come down to Earth after Jesus returns.
- ❖ Deceased believers are already in Heaven with the Lord.
- ❖ One day, we will all be changed, and Heaven itself will be changed.

Last week:

- ❖ We should set our hearts and minds on Heaven.
- ❖ Heaven is not the default setting for fallen humanity.
- ❖ Salvation is assured for believers in Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Wayne Gruden:

“Christians often talk about living with God ‘in Heaven’ forever, but in fact the biblical teaching is richer than that: it tells us that there will be new heavens and a new earth — an entirely renewed creation — and we will live with God there ... There will be a joining of heaven and earth in this new creation.”

Two Heavens:

- ❖ Present Heaven (or intermediate Heaven)
- ❖ Eternal Heaven (or New Earth)

Revelation 21:1-2

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21:3

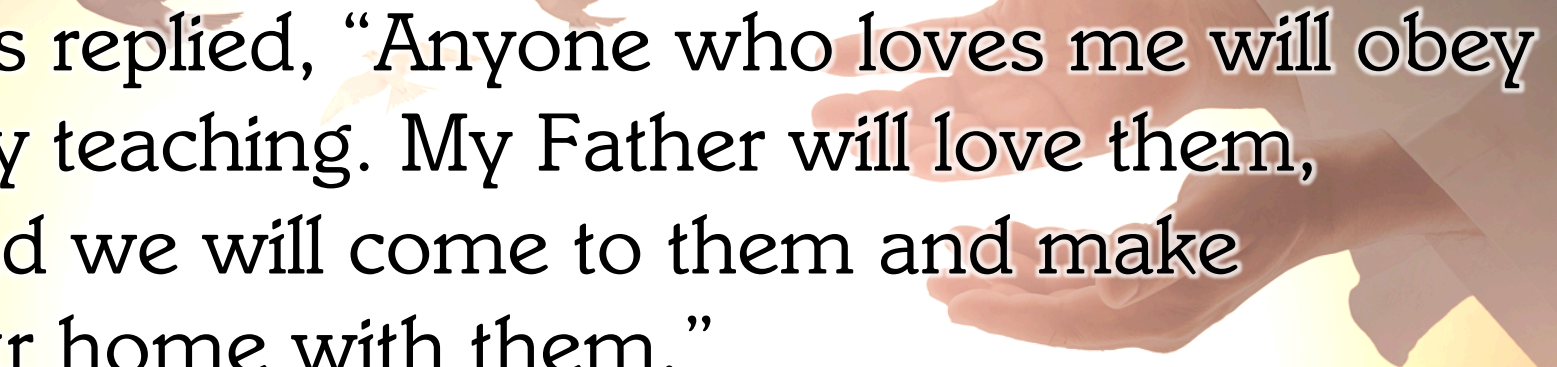
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Anthony Hoekema:

“The ‘new Jerusalem’ ... does not remain in a ‘heaven’ far off in space, but it comes down to the renewed earth; there the redeemed will spend eternity in resurrection bodies. So heaven and earth, now separated, will then be merged: the new earth will also be heaven, since God will dwell there with his people.

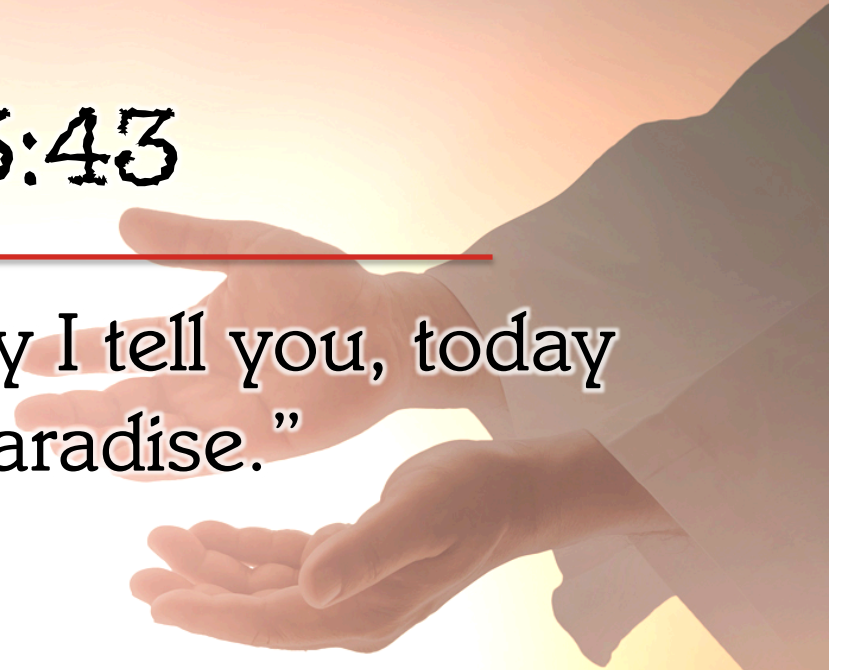
John 14:23

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”



Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

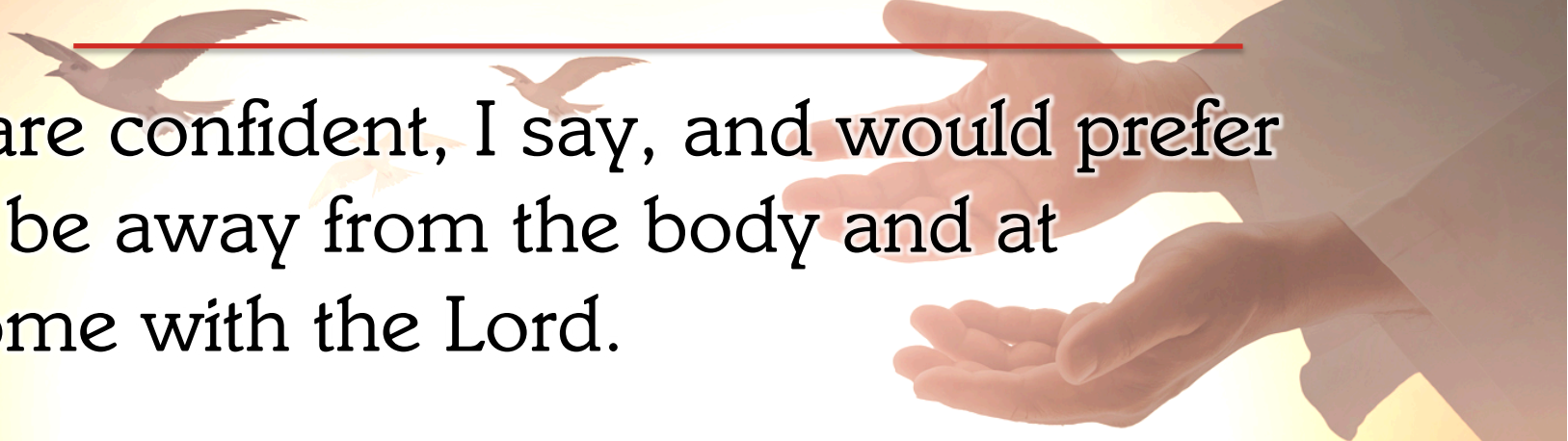


Philippians 1:23

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart
and be with Christ, which is better by far;

2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.



Two judgments:

- ❖ Judgment of faith
- ❖ Judgment of works
 - ❖ “Judgment seat of Christ” for believers
 - ❖ “Great White Throne” for unbelievers

1 Corinthians 3:13-14

... their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

Acts 7:55-56

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Hebrews 8:5

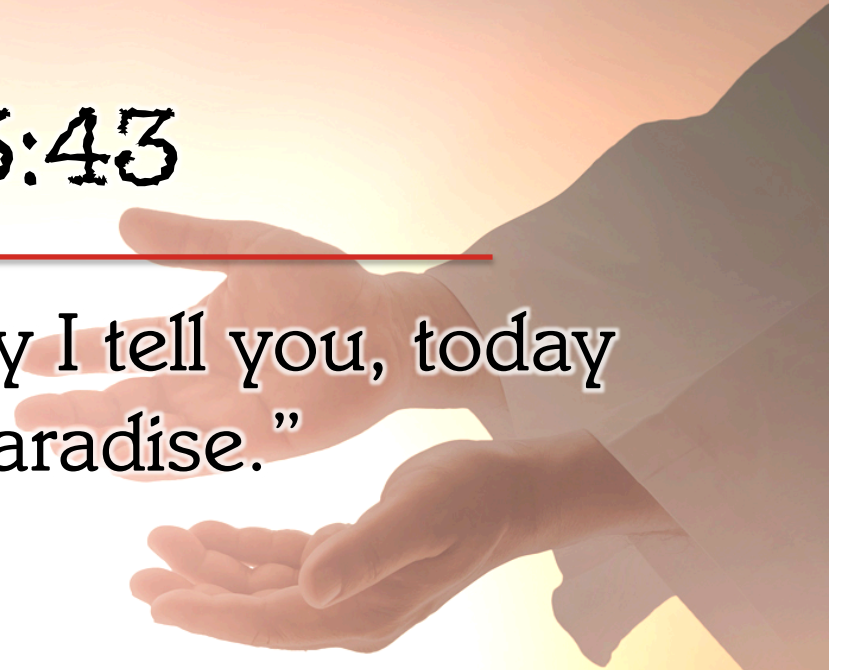
They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

Hebrews 9:24

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."



Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan

“Heaven is the abode of God and of God’s angels, the just and the holy. It is the real home of Christians on earth, the treasures of the faithful, and the arena of salvation — the ultimate home of Christ’s disciples.”

Revelation 2:7

[Jesus]: “Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Genesis 3:24

After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Revelation 22:2

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Acts 1:11

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Acts 7:56

“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Luke 16:19-21

[Jesus]: “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16:22-23

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

Luke 16:24

“So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’”

Luke 16:25

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.’”

Luke 16:26

“And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

Luke 16:27-29

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’”

Luke 16:30-31

“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Luke 15:7

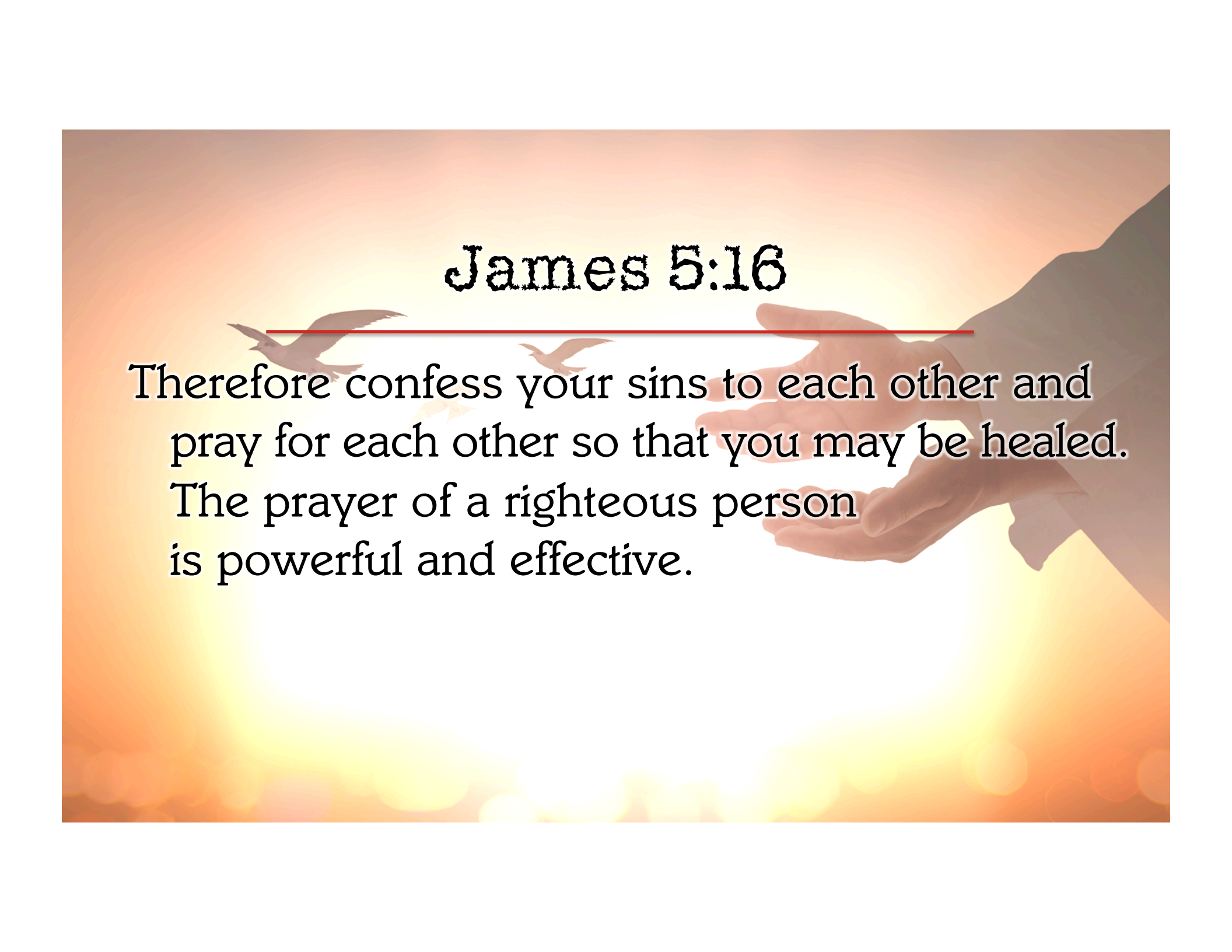
[Jesus]: “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

Romans 8:34

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.



Acts 9:4-5

He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death or mourning
or crying or pain, for the old order of things
has passed away.”

What have we learned?

- ❖ The present Heaven is above us, but it will come down to Earth after Jesus returns.
- ❖ Deceased believers are already in Heaven with the Lord.
- ❖ One day, we will all be changed, and Heaven itself will be changed.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Two text boxes

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