



# Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Preacher: Kevin V. Rutherford

*"The churches of Christ salute you" Rom. 16:16*

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

## ***PICTURES OF HEAVEN***

Kevin V. Rutherford

### *Pictures*

A picture represents the real thing. A painted landscape gives you some idea of the nature of the actual landscape. While we can enjoy the painting of the landscape hanging on the wall in our house, it would be much better to be able to enjoy the infinitely more beautiful, detailed, and complex reality. The Bible gives us glimpses of heaven through word pictures, the word pictures are still able to provide joy and hope.

### *Heaven as a Paradise*

Jesus Christ used the word "paradise" to refer to that part of the Hadean realm into which the righteous enter when they die (Luke 23:43). "Paradise" comes from a Persian word that refers to a beautiful garden.

Paul used the word "paradise" to refer to "the third heaven" (2 Corinthians 12:1-4). So, heaven is also a "paradise". Referring to heaven as a beautiful garden indicates something about the nature of heaven. Heaven will be like a peaceful, restful, soothing, and beautiful garden.

### *Heaven as a House*

Jesus Christ referred to heaven as his "Father's house" in which there are "many mansions" (John 14:1-3). "Mansion" translates a word that means a living space, or a room. Jesus Christ was telling His disciples that heaven is like a big house in which there are many rooms. It is the Father's house, and those who become His children have a room in that house.

Imagine a very happy family, with many members in that family having a wonderful family time together in the Father's house. That is the picture of heaven here. There are plenty of rooms in the Father's house for each of Christ's disciples. The fact that the place is prepared indicates the love, care, and anticipation one might have for family that is coming home.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## *Heaven as a New Heaven and New Earth*

The current earth upon which we now live will not stand forever (2 Peter 3). Peter said the current heavens and earth will be dissolved and will melt with fervent heat (2 Peter 3:10-12). That is why we look for a new heavens and a new earth (2 Peter 3:13). We are not looking for a renewed earth, but rather a new earth.

The primary definition of the word “heaven” is “the vaulted expanse of the sky with all things visible in it” (Enhanced Strong’s Dictionary). The heavens that will pass away include the atmosphere of the earth, and the universe that surrounds us. The third heaven is that eternal spiritual abode that can never pass away (2 Corinthians 12:1-4).

John pictured the judgment day, the reward of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked in Revelation 20-22. In this context he sees the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1). The reason there needs to be a new heaven and a new earth is because the first ones have passed away. The earth upon which we live will not be renewed, but rather it will pass away. Therefore, we will need a new place to live. That is the new heavens and earth. That is the eternal heaven that God provides for the righteous at the judgment.

## *Heaven as a City*

In Revelation twenty-one, John pictures heaven as a “holy city,” which he calls “the new Jerusalem” (Revelation 21:2). As John peers at heaven through the vision given to him by God, he sees heaven as a beautiful city coming down from the sky (Revelation 21:10-11). In this beautiful city there will be “no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying . . .” and “there shall be no more pain” (Revelation 21:4).

John’s vision pictured the “city” of heaven as having high walls made of “jasper” (perhaps diamond), while the structures and streets inside the walls were made of pure gold. The city had twelve foundations of stones of varying colors. The twelve gates were like pearls, and the city was measured to be large enough for all the saved of all the ages (Revelation 21:12-21).

The city was lit by the glory of God, and nothing entered the city that could defile it. John also saw the pure river of the water of life, and the tree of life in that great city. All of these images of heaven indicating perfect beauty, peace, stability, safety, and joy (Revelation 21:22-22:5).

## *Conclusion*

Heaven is a spiritual place. As such, heaven cannot be fully represented in material pictures. Yet, each of these pictures gives us enough information to know that heaven is a place more wonderful than any of us can even begin to imagine. Christians cannot fully express the joy and gratitude that comes with knowing that we are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20-4:1). Though we must suffer on this earth for now, we can rejoice with exceeding joy over our living hope of a home in heaven with God (1 Peter 1:3-11). “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven ...” (Matthew 5:12).

## **READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2018**

February 19 - Mark 1:23-45  
February 20 - Mark 2  
February 21 - Mark 3:1-19  
February 22 - Mark 3:20-35



February 23 - Mark 4:1-20  
February 24 - Mark 4:21-41  
February 25 - Mark 5:1-20



## OUR SICK Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please continue to remember Harry Picciuto's father, **Stephen Read**, and family in your prayers. Mr. Read was recently moved to Hospice.

**Jeannie Moore's** chemo was delayed due to fluid in her lungs which was removed this past week. Her first treatment was scheduled for this past Friday at the Duke Cancer Center.

**Shawn Thomason** underwent knee surgery on February 12th.

**Rodney Brown** will have shoulder surgery on Monday, February 19th.

**Lutrelle Chipman** has been moved to Room 6171 at the Forsyth Hospital. She is undergoing some tests at this time.

**Kim Sheets** has recovered from his illness and is back at work.

Please pray for Vicky Rutherford's mother, **Martha Andrews**, who has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer. Mrs. Andrews lives in Florida and if you would like to send her a card, her address will be posted on the bulletin board.

**Renee' Morgan** (Madelene's niece) received a good report from the Duke Medical Center on Tuesday. She is now **CANCER FREE**.

Sandra Church's mother, **Lucille Walter**, is in Novant Health Center on Harper Road with congestive heart failure. She asks for our prayers. (She may have been released this past Friday.)

Please pray for **Waleah Chadima** (Pat Belch's aunt) She has had a heart attack. **Alice Dunlap** (also Pat Belch's aunt) was to be discharged this past week. She will return home with assistance. Please continue to pray for her recovery from a stroke. Alice is 96.

### ~THANK YOU~

**Nita Kirkland** appreciates all the prayers and love shown during my illness. Thank you!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your prayers for my aunt, **Katherine Rumley**. Please continue to remember her in prayer as she has developed pneumonia and is struggling to recuperate from her recent stroke. —**Mindy Santiago**

### SHUT-INS

**Mildred Barker**  
**Lutrelle Chipman**  
**Ernestine Martin**

**Kim Matthews**  
**Di-Ann Moser**

### SOUTHWEST FOOD PANTRY

The suggested item for the month of February is canned fruit.



**WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.**

### WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

**Feb. 22** - The 50 and Over Class will meet at 11 a.m. in the Annex.

**Mar. 24** - **Ladies Day** at Warners Chapel. Sign-up sheets on bulletin board. The speaker will be **Brenda Rutherford**. The topic: "How do I Worship An Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent God?" - "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him" (Psalms 89:7)

*"Do you see more and more lack of reverence and respect for God in our worship services? People who have come into the presence of the Lord Almighty are texting, playing games on their I-phones, talking and dressed like they are going on a picnic. How do you personally worship God on the Lord's Day?"*

### AREA EVENTS:

**Feb. 24** - **Ladies Day** at the Cary church of Christ from, 9-12 Noon with lunch to follow. The theme is "Spring Cleaning for the Heart & Soul" The speaker will be Kathy Pollard.

**Mar. 10** - **Men's Fellowship** from 9 a.m. to 3:p.m. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**Mar. 23** - **Area Singing Fellowship** at the Northwest church of Christ in Greensboro at 7 p.m.

**Mar. 24** - **Men's Retreat** at the Northwest church of Christ. 8:30 to 12 noon.

**Apr. 13-15** - **Youth Rally** at the Lake Norman church of Christ.

**May 5** - **Ladies Day** at Northwest church of Christ Theme: "Soothe Your Soul" Speaker: Jonee' Lewis from WXII News. 8:30-1:00.

**SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR DETAILS**

### **FOR THE RECORD**

Sunday Bible Study - February 11, 2018	115
Sunday Worship Service	161
Contribution for Feb. 11, 2018	
Daily Adult Bible Readers:	38
Chapters Read:	546
Sunday Evening Worship Service	113
Wed. Evening Bible Study - Feb. 14, 2018	87

## Lord's Day Appointments For February, 2018

Serving the Lord's Table For February:

**D. C. Mock**

Jacob Woodbury     Nathan Roy

Colin Robinson

Debbie Southern

David Moore

Jim Harrison

Preparing Communion for February:

Making Announcements on Sunday:

Making Announcements on Wednesday:

## Lord's Day Appointments - February 25, 2018

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
<b>Scripture</b> - Allen Cooper	<b>Morning</b> - Roger Allen	<b>A.M.</b> - Wayne Allen	<b>A.M.</b> - Dwight Barringer
<b>Song Leader</b> - Tim Allen	<b>Evening</b> - Allen Cooper	<b>P.M.</b> - Tim Allen	<b>P.M.</b> - Tommy Rose
<b>Prayer</b> - D. C. Mock		<b>Wed.</b> - Song Req. Service Wayne A.-Walter C.	
<b><u>Greeters for March:</u></b>			
<b>Jim &amp; D.J. Harrison</b>			

### Opening and Closing Building

<b>Sunday:</b> - February 25	~	John Allen
<b>Wednesday:</b> - February 28	~	John Allen

## Lord's Day Appointments - February 18, 2018

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
<b>Scripture</b> - Jason Allen	<b>Morning</b> - Mark Roy	<b>A.M.</b> - Gene Southern	<b>A.M.</b> - John Allen
<b>Song Leader</b> - Wayne Allen	<b>Evening</b> - Andy Santiago	<b>P.M.</b> - Wayne Allen	<b>P.M.</b> - Clayton Workman
<b>Prayer</b> - Carl Cooper		<b>Wed.</b> - Allen Cooper	
<b><u>Greeters for February:</u></b>			
<b>Jim and D.J. Harrison</b>			

### Opening and Closing Building

<b>Sunday:</b> - February 18	~	Justin Minor
<b>Wednesday:</b> - February 21	~	Justin Minor

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - Nursery open for small children during all services.

### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:50 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> Mid-Week Service	7:00 PM

**“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8**  
**SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68**

**WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**8999 LASATER ROAD**  
**CLEMMONS, NC 27012**

### ELDERS

### DEACONS

David Moore  
Tim Allen  
Joe Everett  
Todd Hinson  
Steve Tesh

Randy Warner  
Keith Warner  
Andy Santiago  
Mark Minor  
Jason Allen  
Mike Cooper

Jody Everett  
Gene Southern  
Shawn Thomason  
Mark Roy  
Adam Warner  
Jacob Woodbury