

5 5-11-20

Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous – Remember that TV series? Well, no matter how extravagant the lifestyle shown on that show, it does not compare to what is being prepared for us in heaven!

Jesus tells us in the gospel: *“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”* John 14:2-3

Jesus Himself is preparing a place for you and me. Now, would you think that the Eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Savior of the world, and Lord of Life would skimp on anything for us whom He died and rose for?

A couple other translations of John 14:2-3 sound like this:

*“In my Father’s house there are many **rooms**, and I am going to prepare a place for you.”*

*“In my Father’s house are many **mansions**; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.”*

I personally like the last one. Imagine, there is a **mansion** waiting for you and me in the Father’s house! Actually, however, St. Paul informs us that what God is preparing for us is beyond our imagination. He said: *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”* 1Cor.2:9

Still, the Bible does give us glimpses of what heaven will be like. The Book of Revelation describes heaven as a jeweled city. The whole city is a priceless jewel. Heaven is described as a place of **perfect beauty**. Also, heaven is described as a place of **perfect day**. There is no night. All things are new and bright. God Himself is the light. In heaven there is no aging, and no one gets tired. Heaven is a place of **perfect pleasure**. There will be no pain, suffering, boredom, or tears—only the fullness of joy. Heaven is also described as a place of **perfect knowledge**. There is an uninterrupted knowledge of God and we will know ourselves as God knows us. Heaven is also a place of **perfect life**. In heaven, our very selves will be perfected and glorified. We will be like Jesus.

Sound like a lifestyle of the rich and famous? There was once a poor boy from the ghetto who was standing outside a luxurious downtown high rise complex. A wealthy looking woman came out of the complex, and the boy asked her: "Lady, do you live in this project?" The woman was beside herself with insult, and snapped "Project! How dare you call this elegant, luxury high rise a project!"

Well, in light of what God has in store for us, anywhere you or I live on earth is a project. Some may live in a fancier project than others, but compared to the magnificence that God has in store for His children, anywhere and everywhere here on earth is a low-cost housing project.

Life in heaven will be the best of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. The Lord will not skimp on anything. But, what will really make heaven **heaven** for us is that we will see our God face to face and experience the magnitude of His love for eternity.