

## CHARITY & ITS FRUITS

### Sermon 15- Heaven is a World of Love

1 Cor. 13:8-10

Edwards begins this final sermon by discussing his understanding of the two-fold meaning of the Apostle's words in this section (specifically verse 10). The "imperfect" can be understood as both a reference to the state of the church before the completion of the canon and the entire time of the church militant. Likewise, the "perfect" also can be understood in a two-fold way as referring to the completion of the canon and the future \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints.

**Doctrine-**Heaven is a world of love.

Edwards wants us to consider 6 different truths that support this doctrine.

1. **Heaven is the place where the Being who is the fountain of love resides-** "The God of love dwells in heaven. Heaven is the palace, or presence-chamber, of the Supreme Being who is both the cause and \_\_\_\_\_ of all holy love."

"God is the fountain of love, as the sun is the fountain of light. And therefore the glorious presence of God in heaven \_\_\_\_\_ heaven with love, as the sun placed in the midst of the hemisphere in a clear day fills the world with light."

2. **Heaven contains only lovely objects-** There is no odious or polluted person or thing to be seen there. There is nothing wicked or unholy...not only shall all objects there be lovely, but each shall be \_\_\_\_\_ lovely... There are those objects upon which the saints have set their hearts and loved above all others while in this world."
3. **Every heart in heaven is filled with love-** "Love resides and reigns in every heart there...Love is in God as light is in the sun...and love flows from Him towards all the inhabitants of heaven...The love of God flows out towards Christ the Head, and through Him to all His members, in whom they were beloved before the foundation of the world, and in whom His love was expressed towards them in time by His death and sufferings, and in their conversion and the great things God has done for them in this world, and is now \_\_\_\_\_ manifested to them in heaven.

"There is no enemy of God in heaven, but all love Him as His children...As they are all lovely, so all see each other's loveliness with answerable delight and complacency. Everyone there loves every other inhabitant of heaven whom he sees, and so he is \_\_\_\_\_ beloved by everyone."

4. **The love of heaven is a holy and perfect love-** "Most of the love which there is in this world is of an unhallowed nature. But in heaven, the love which has place there is not carnal, but \_\_\_\_\_; not proceeding from corrupt principles, not from selfish motives, and to mean and vile purposes; but there love is a pure flame. The saints there love God for His own sake, and each other for God's sake, for the sake of that relation which they bear to God, and that image of God which is upon them."

"There shall be no remaining enmity, distaste, coldness and deadness of heart towards God and Christ; not the least remainder of any principle of \_\_\_\_\_ to be exercised towards any angels or saints who are superior in glory, no contempt or slight towards an who are inferior."

5. **In Heaven love will be perfectly expressed and enjoyed-** "Love there always meets with answerable returns of love. Love is always mutual, and the returns are always in due proportion...The \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven shall never be damped or interrupted by jealousy."

"Love naturally desires to express itself; and in heaven the love of the saints shall be at liberty to express itself as it desires, either towards God or one another...In heaven love will be expressed with perfect decency and \_\_\_\_\_"

"There shall be nothing external to keep them at a distance or hinder the most perfect enjoyment of each other's love...They shall all be united together in very near relation...They shall enjoy each other's love in perfect and undisturbed \_\_\_\_\_."

“All things in that world shall conspire to \_\_\_\_\_ their love...They shall know that they shall forever be continued in the perfect enjoyment of each other’s love.”

- 6. In Heaven the fruits of love will be perfectly exercised-** “Every action shall be perfect in all its circumstances. Every part of their \_\_\_\_\_ shall be holy and divine in matter and form and end.”

**Application-**To instruct, seek to awaken, and exhort

### 1. Instruct

If heaven be such a world as we have heard, then this may lead us to see a reason why \_\_\_\_\_ has such an influence as it has to darken persons’ evidences of heaven...For heaven being a world of love, it follows that when persons have the least exercise of love, and most of contrary principles, they have least of heaven and are farthest from it in their frames of mind. They have least of the exercise of that which consists in a conformity to heaven, or a preparation for it, or what tends to it, or has any relation to it; and so necessarily must have least evidence of their title to it, and must be farthest from partaking of the comforts of it.”

“Hence we may learn how \_\_\_\_\_ those persons are who are entitled to heaven.”

Those who “are entitled to heaven” are those who:

- A. Have the love of God implanted in them through regeneration-** “Their hearts are a soil in which this heavenly seed has been sown and in which it abides. And so they are changed, and of earthly are become heavenly in their dispositions....Their \_\_\_\_\_ are drawn to God and Christ, and for their sakes flow out to the saints in humble and spiritual love.”
- B. Have freely chosen the happiness of heaven above all others-** “The world does not afford anything like it. They have chosen this before any other. Their souls go out after it more than any other, and their hearts are more in pursuit of it than any other. They have chosen it freely, nor merely because they have met with such sorrow, and are in such low and afflicted circumstances, that they do not expect much from the world. But their hearts are so \_\_\_\_\_ by this good that they choose it for its own sake beyond all worldly good, if they had ever so much of it, and could enjoy it ever so long.”
- C. Are struggling after holiness-** “Holy love makes them long for holiness. Divine love is a principle, which \_\_\_\_\_ after increase...Love is a holy fire in him.”

### 2. Seek to waken

“First. What has been said on this subject may put Christless persons in mind of their misery, in that they have no \_\_\_\_\_ or right in this world of love.”

“Second. You are in danger. Hell is a world of \_\_\_\_\_. There are three worlds. One is this present world, which is an intermediate world, a world where good and bad, love and hatred are mixed together; a sure sign that the world is not to continue. Another is heaven, a world of love where is love and no hatred. And the other is hell, a world of hatred where there is no love, to which world you while you remain in a Christless state do properly belong.”

- 3. Exhort-** “Let the consideration of what has been said of heaven stir you up \_\_\_\_\_ to seek after it. If heaven be such a blessed world, then let this be our chosen country, and the inheritance we seek.”

“Do not let out your \_\_\_\_\_ after the things of this world and indulge yourself in pursuits of earthly things. This is the reverse of seeking heaven. This is to go the contrary way, which leads directly from heaven and not towards it.”

“You must in your meditations and holy exercises be \_\_\_\_\_ in conversations with heavenly persons and enjoyments.”

“Be \_\_\_\_\_ to pass through all difficulties in the way to heaven.”

“In all your way let your eye be to \_\_\_\_\_ who is gone to heaven as your Forerunner.”

“\_\_\_\_\_ a life of love.”