

I know that unless the Lord comes very soon I will go to be with Him even as so many thousands of others have done before. Do not sorrow when the Lord takes me. Rejoice because it will be my coronation day; my time of entering into the fulness of the wonderful blessings which I now enjoy in part, but then I shall see [know] even as I am seen [known]. How wonderful that will be.

Why should we have to wait for that glorious day? Why doesn't Jesus take us to Himself immediately when we are saved? I think part of the answer is given in the next verse, after these nine that we have looked at Verse 10: "For we are God's workmanship." That reaffirms what has already been stated. We are what God produced us by creation and God has saved us if we have turned to Christ and been saved by Him. We are His workmanship. He continues "created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance. for us to do." WE do not win heaven by any good works. We don't win God's approbation by good works. We show our thankfulness to God for what He did for us in trying to do good works for Him. God has left us here in order that we may accomplish certain purposes that He has in mind. I think these purposes can be put under two main heads: I believe it is important that we have these in mind in order that our lives may truly accomplish what God wants them to accomplish. Most of the purposes of why He left us here can be put under these two heads and the first of these is (1) to spread His Word and through it to lead souls to salvation through what He has done.

There is a story that is sometimes told about Jesus ascending to heaven and being greeted by the angel Gabriel with a serious question. He might have said something like this. Lord, you went for a space of nearly three years, walking around Galilee, talking to people and teaching them. You gradually led them into the understanding of why you were there and what your death would mean. You did not reach but a small fraction of the people in Galilee and in Judea during the time you spent on earth. ~~There~~are thousands, yes millions