

Where is Heaven?

The Bible Teaches That It Is to Be On Earth.

PERMIT me to draw your attention to the 50th Psalm and 5th verse, where you will read these words: "Gather my saints together unto me, those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice." In the discussion of this subject our effort will be to show you where the people of God will spend eternity. Just a word first, as regards who shall be gathered. A number of papers have reached us finding fault because we claimed the name saint. The writers allege that the word saint means somebody that has been canonized, somebody that is dead, and that it is not a proper name to bestow upon the living; that when we call ourselves Latter Day Saints we are not using the scriptural name for God's people. Let me say that it is the only name of all the Christian churches that is supported by the Bible. I will go further than that—the man-made churches are not according to the Bible—no; not even as to the name. Who ever heard tell of the Roman Catholic Church, the Episcopalian Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, the Shakers, the Quakers, the Unitarians, the Trinitarians, in the Bible? I am not objecting to the names; I am just replying, kind of taking my own part, you know. These names are man-made, and are very properly attached to the organizations that have been organized by men. Not even the name Christian was endorsed either by God or Christ in the Bible; that is only a nick-name, and was used as a slur in the first age of the church. The heathen world during its persecutions upon the church referred to the saints or followers of Christus, as Christ-ians, or as we say, Christians; it was a nick-name on the followers of the lowly Nazarene. Your names cannot be supported by the Bible; our name can. Ninety-six times the people of God are called saints in the Bible; never did God call them Presbyterians, Methodists, or even Christians, we are ninety-six times ahead of you, so far as the name goes.

God's People Called Saints.

The word Christian is found three times in the Bible. First, Acts 11:26: "The Disciples were first called Christians at Antioch"—this was a heathen city, and they in derision called the followers of the Nazarene Christ-ians; second, Acts 26:28, Paul was taken before King Agrippa; the old king admired Paul for his knowledge and faith, though he stood before him a prisoner, chained and without a weapon, surrounded by the armour-bearers of the king, he challenged the admiration of that potentate who, bowing before him, said: "Almost thou persuadest to be a Christian;" third, 1st Peter 4:16, when some of the saints were suffering, Peter wrote something in this strain: "Now, if any of you suffer as a Christian, be not ashamed." In a word, he meant, as we used to say in school days, "sticks and stones may break your bones, but names will never hurt you." If you are in touch with divinity it does not matter what men may say; character is what tells, and not reputation. These are the only places in the entire Bible where the word Christian is used, so, in place of it saying "Gather my Presbyterians, my Shakers, or my Quakers unto me," God says "Gather my saints unto me." One may ask, how do you get the