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*It's Better
Up Ahead*





*We have a building
from God, an eternal
house in heaven, not
built by human hands.
2 Corinthians 5:1*

Better Up Ahead

I really like the old-time hymns
that we have sung for years,
They tell us of a better place
where we will shed no tears.
I doubt when we arrive up There
we'll ask the reason why
We've had so many speed bumps
that made us want to sigh.

When I take time to think on this,
I wonder could it be
That we'll forget our problems
when Jesus face we see?
We won't ask for explanations
why we suffered lots of pain
For we will be distracted
by the things we're going to gain.

To hear the angels singing
and to walk on streets of gold,
And it will finally dawn on us
we never will grow old.
So when you feel down in the dumps
and life is filled with dread
Remember Jesus told us
that it's better up ahead.

Looking ahead

God made the earth so beautiful
with trees, and birds, and such,
Creating not just earth and sun,
but things we love to touch.
And, He gave folks a lot of smarts
to make things while they're here,
And so we have just lots and lots
to put us in high gear:
Like cars, computers, radios,
TV's, and other stuff,
The Internet, and E-mail, too,
makes living not too tough.
The cell phone also makes it nice
so folks are not alone;
It matters not where you're on earth
you always have the phone.
So we enjoy a lot of things
our parents never had
And people keep inventing things
to upgrade just a tad.
And though we think our life down here
is good as it can get,
St. Peter just may say to us,
"You ain't seen nuthin' yet."

The Psalms

I kinda' like to read the Psalms,
they have good news to share,
They tell us we should praise the Lord
for all His love and care.
They also give the future
written out in black and white
Of what will happen to the good
and those who don't do right.

Of course we know of David
with his trusty little sling
And how he killed Goliath
and great victory did win.
Not only was he famous
for the great things that he did
But he loved God with all his heart
when he was just a kid.

And David also played a harp
and wrote a lot of songs,
He also made some bad mistakes
but repented of his wrongs.
So God loved him an awful lot
because he was sincere
And David found forgiveness
which filled his soul with cheer.

If you will read the Psalms again
they might bring peace of mind
And if we think on 'em a bit
a lot of stuff we'll find
That gives us strength for dreary days
when we feel tired and weak,
God knows we have some days like that
and knows whereof we speak.

I guess some verses I like best
is where it says to me
That we should always praise the Lord
until His Face we see.
And if He lives within our heart
He'll lead us safely o'er
The banks of Jordan's River
and reach Heaven's golden shore.

*Blessed (happy) is he whose transgressions
are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

Psalm 32:1

Moving . . . But No Packing?

When I go to Heaven I won't have to pack
and wonder, "What things shall I take?"
'Twill be a relief not to handle those bags
and not have decisions to make.
"Twould be very hard to select certain clothes,
for what are they wearing up there?
Now, would I need shoes, if so, just what kind?
and what should I take for my hair?

Would I need my watch, or does time just stand still?
and what about bracelets and rings?
With all of the gold and the jewels up there
I'd really need none of those things.
I'm very much happy I won't have to pack
and carry my bags to the Gate,
For things that I love and I cherish down here
up there wold be quite out of date.

I think the Lord wants us to come as we are
when He says it's time to depart.
He'd not be impressed by the stuff that we'd bring,
but surely He'll look at the heart.

The Greatest Day

If you're absent in the flesh

you are present with the Lord,

If Jesus lives within your heart

you have this sure reward.

So death does not destruction bring

and cause the soul to die,

It simply sets the spirit free,

as upward you will fly.

So trust in God for that great day

that signifies your death,

He has a home awaiting you

when you take your last breath.

Heaven-- Where All Are Special

When folks get to Heaven I doubt they will find
A corner for white folk with wealth, and refined,
Another large section for folks who are black,
A still different courtyard for poor (out in back)

A place for Jews only (no Gentiles in sight),
Another for prophets, for kings and the like,
A place for the Baptists (no others allowed),
There just won't be room for more of a crowd).

The old-fashioned Quakers won't have their own spot,
And no special groups will be found on a lot,
But every believer in Jesus will be
Eternally loved and eternally free.

Divisions and factions will be out of place
For all who are there have been saved by His grace.
Their garments are spotless-in fact, white as snow,
They'll know their Redeemer, and each face will glow.

And all will be one in that beautiful Place
No matter their status, religion, or race.
One God will be worshiped, just one God alone;
We'll worship with angels the One on the Throne.

Classes?

When I was sitting quietly
absorbed in my own thought
I wondered, when we get to Heaven
will classes there be taught
So we will know the language there
so when we go about
We'll understand what others say
and chat with them, no doubt?
With all the many languages
and dialects down here,
Its hard to guess what God might choose
so everyone can hear.

I reckon its a waste of time
to speculate too much
On what the language is up there
and if its such and such.
But this we know without a doubt
God has the language planned,
And when it comes straight from His heart
all folks will understand.

What Color?

I had a thought the other day
and dwelt on it awhile,
The more I thought about it, folks,
the more I had to smile.
And this is what I wondered
as I let my mind run free,
What color is a person's soul
that lives in you and me?

Now when we die and go to Heav'n
and get a body new
Will there be different colors there
and will you look like you?
Do you think God is color blind
when He looks at our skin?
I kind of think His interest lies
on what we have within.

Some folks down here just seem to feel
a cut above the rest,
But when we get to Heaven, folks,
there'll be no second best.
We will not care if folks are black,
or yellow, brown, or red,
For Jesus died for ALL the world
just as the Bible said.

*I've Never Been
to Heaven*

I've never been to Heaven
but I hope to go some day
And when I reach that lovely Place
I'm sure I'll want to stay.

After living for a lot of years
down here with toil and fear
It sure will be lots different
when all problems disappear.

We'll never have to phone in sick
or have a tire go flat,
Or get a tune-up from the Doc,
or walk the dog or cat.

We'll not get hit by hurricanes,
tsunamis won't be There,
No families will be arguing,
there'll be no pain or care.

No one will be complaining
about how bad they feel
And how it almost wears 'em out
to just prepare a meal.

Your neighbors or your boss at work
won't make you lose your smile
And if you find you need a nap
there'll be time to rest a while.

God is the CEO, you know,
and keeps things up to snuff,
He has a limitless supply
so always has enough.

It's hard for me to figure out
why all folks don't prepare
And live for God down here on earth
so they can live up There.

Things We'll Miss

Sometimes we get discouraged
and we like to reminisce
On what will be hereafter
and things that we will miss.
Our hearts will not be troubled,
there will be no stress or strain
For in that heavenly Place up There
we'll feel no guilt or pain.
No backaches, toothaches, headaches,
no arthritis, and no gout,
And fractures, shingles, cataracts,
are things we'll do without.

We'll not dread that day in April
when Income Tax comes due;
The daily news will be passe
that could upset us, too.
We'll not make up a shopping list
or fill the car with gas,
And we won't have the monthly bills
that seem to come en masse.

We won't have programs on T.V.
that rankle us a lot,
And junk mail won't be coming through
with bargains that are not.
And credit cards that rob the poor
but make for ready cash
Won't be in evidence up there
but left on earth as trash.

No politics will be in Heav'n
for God's the CEO.
His rules are in the Bible
that was written long ago.
Police cars or an ambulance
with sirens screaming loud
Won't rush to pick a person up
if injured in a crowd
For there will be no accidents,
no fighting and no crime
For former things have passed away

We'll miss the problems that we have
down here where humans dwell
And we'll be glad to leave behind
some other stuff as well.
We'll not look for a hole down here
the day we're called to die
But rather we will look and find
a hole up in the sky.

*a faith and knowledge resting in the hope
of eternal life, which God, who does not lie,
promised before the beginning of time.*

Titus 1:2

No Tears

Sometimes we think that by and by
when we get up to Heav'n
We'll want to ask some questions
'bout some trials we've been given,
It may be on our heart to ask
why we have suffered so
And why living wasn't easy
with its aches and pains, ya' know.

But I have thought on this a tad
and wondered, could it be
That we'll forget all that bad stuff
when Jesus face we see?
Our souls will be excited
when we reach that Golden Shore
And things that used to irk us here
will bother us no more.

The Bible plainly tells us
God will wipe away all tears
And He can do that very fast—
it won't take months or years.
So just be glad and thank the Lord
when angels give their nod
That you'll leave troubles far behind
and be at Home with God.

Revelation 21:4

Story Time

I had a thought the other day
that I'd not had before,
About the things we'll do in Heaven
where time will be no more.
One thing I'd like to do up There
is listen to a bunch
Who sat down on a hillside there
where Jesus gave them lunch,

And hear them tell of how they felt
when Jesus broke the bread,
And thousands ate till they were filled,
and hear what people said.
Another thing I'd like to do
is sit at David's feet,
And hear just how Goliath looked
when he fell in defeat.

I think that Moses, too, could tell
some things while on the go;
Those forty years in desert sand
were pretty hard, ya' know.
To think their clothes did not wear out,
nor did their ankles swell,
Those folks who wandered all those years
must have a lot to tell.

And there are other stories, too,
like Jonah and the whale,
I'll bet he'd have a lot to say
on under-water sail.
I know I could add to the list
of folks I hope to see,
I'd also guess a lot of folks
would listen There with me.

Finally Home

Have you noticed in the book of Psalms
a very special verse
That gives the Christian lots of hope
although it's kinda' terse?

It says that when folks die on earth
it's precious in God's sight,
We might have known if God's involved
He'd really do it right.

We know that when our kids come home
to spend a week or so
We get our house prepared for them
with things they like, you know.

We welcome them with open arms
and try to do our best
So they'll know they are loved a lot
and are our special guest.

On earth it's difficult to give
a tearful last goodbye
But if we think on it a bit
we maybe shouldn't sigh

Because God has a place prepared,
the Welcome sign is clear
And He keeps waiting for the time
His children will appear.

So while we struggle here on earth
to let a loved one go
The ones who are in Heaven
are rejoicing for they know

Another child has made it Home
and they will always stay
Where there is happiness and love
forever and a day.

*Streets of Gold . . .
and More*

We often hear of streets of gold
on Heaven's golden shore,
But I would guess beyond the Gates
there's really much, much more.

With people free from aches and pains
and troubles of this earth
There has to be a lot of joy,
and love, and peace, and mirth.

There must be flowers, trees and shrubs
that fill a special space
With butterflies that drift about
as birds fly place to place.

The eyes of folks that once were dim
will 20/20 be,
All things will be in focus there
so everyone can see.

And hearing in that lovely Place
will be both loud and clear
Where folks need not repeat themselves
so friends up there can hear.

There'll also be fine music
by a great celestial band;
The singing will be praising God
in that great Promised Land.

I like to think about the things
that we might see up there,
It's easy just to ruminate
from my reclining chair.

No doubt it is a waste of time
for we can never tell
The Place that Jesus has prepared
for those who know Him well.

The Bible says our minds down here
can't even comprehend
The things He has prepared for those
who serve Him to the end.

A Hang In There

Your body may grow old, ya' know
and slow down quite a bit,
And there are days you sometimes think
you'd really like to quit.
But other times you feel quite good
and really want to stay
And think you'd like to live a while
so keep on day by day.
But even though your body's bent
and life's at slower speed
Your spirit grows each passing day
and gives the strength you need.
Its nice that God planned things that way
so as we older grow
That place that we call Heaven, folks,
means more to us, you know.
Don't fret and stew when aging comes--
God has a better place--
So hang in there the best you can;
someday you'll see His Face.