

There will be many surprises in connection with that event. As we go up we will be astonished at many whom we will see in the company, and equally astonished at many who will be missing. Some people who have talked very piously and who perhaps have been very orthodox in their theology, have never really trusted Christ in their hearts. It was just lip service. It was merely external. As we look around we shall fail to see them. They will be left behind.

On the other hand, we will be surprised to see many whom we had not thought of as true Christians. Perhaps their character had not seemed half as good as that of some who were left behind.

Many of us have, as it were, inherited goodness from our parents. We have been brought up in an atmosphere that makes us like what is refined, and dislike what is vulgar. We have been brought up to feel a definite difference between what is ours and what belongs to someone else. We would never think of intentionally lying or stealing. Yet this does not save us or fit us for heaven. It may make us much nicer people on earth than some others with a poorer background, but the important thing is not where one is but in what direction he is moving. If a person is a true believer he is being gradually sanctified. His standards of right and wrong are constantly being raised, and he is learning to reject what is evil. If a person has merely inherited goodness he is constantly being affected by the allurements of this world and gradually losing the good character that he inherited from his parents.

Only God can see the heart and know who the true Christians are. Each of us should examine himself, and make sure that he has truly believed on Christ. There will be surprises when we see who is present and who is missing from the great company that will be caught up into the air to meet our wonderful Saviour.