

## Where Do You Live?

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This article was inspired by a lecture given by Dr. Tony Evans entitled “Living in Light of Eternity” from “The Eternal Perspective” series. At the very last of Tony’s lecture, he gives a final illustration – a short story about a cobbler.

A man drove up to the Cobbler Shop to get his shoes repaired, but seeing that there were no cars at the shop he thought he was too late. He was correct; the door was locked since it was after hours. But he decided to knock on the door anyway. Luckily the cobbler was still in the shop, but he told the man that the shop was closed. The man was in desperate need of getting his shoes repaired though, so he briefly told the cobbler his situation. Being a compassionate man, the cobbler let the man in the shop.

Once in the shop the man handed his shoes to the kind cobbler and asked “Can you fix my shoes?” and the cobbler replied “Yes I will take care of your shoes”. Then the man said to the cobbler “I noticed that your car is not in the parking lot. How are you going to get home?” The cobbler replied “Oh, it is easy for me, *I work down here, but I live up there*”. You see the cobbler had an apartment above the shop. So he worked downstairs, but he lived upstairs.

The point Tony was trying to make was that God wants you to live down here on Earth, but live your life with the perspective that your home is actually up in God’s Kingdom. By living here on Earth with the understanding that there is a much better life to come for us after we die, it gives us hope and helps us to live a life pleasing to God. We are to live here on Earth as ambassadors, or representatives, of God and His Heavenly Home. We are to live with love for others and trust in God as our Bible teaches us.

One main purpose for our life here on Earth is to prepare ourselves and others for our eternal home. The way the Earth is now (full of temptations, corruption, deterioration and evil) is not the way God made it and is not the way He intends it to be in the eternity to come. The more we live by the teachings of the Bible, the more content and joyful we will be in our life on Earth and the more prepared we will be when we go to our heavenly home where righteousness, love and peace abound.

Often missionaries go to far away countries which have vastly inferior living conditions than they had at home. And often the purpose they go to these countries is to help the people of that area live a little more comfortably while on Earth (by providing medical care or teaching better techniques in farming, for example). But as a missionary their ultimate purpose for visiting these people is to teach them about a vastly better life to come in God’s Heavenly Kingdom (even vastly better than where the missionary came from) and teach them how to get there (by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior).

The Bible says that we are to live in this world, but not be conformed to it. When we realize that this life on Earth is only a temporary residence and that our real home is God’s Heavenly Kingdom, we are given hope that there is a vastly better life to come and it will last forever. This hope gives us strength to endure the hardships of this present life, knowing that these hardships are only temporary and will one day all be gone giving way to an everlasting, joyful, pain-free life with our Lord Jesus.

So, where do you live? Are you letting the troubles of this world control your thoughts and attitude, or do you live with your trust in God and the comfort of knowing that you will soon be home in your heavenly home, God’s Heavenly Home where there is peace, comfort, righteousness and love forever?