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Honey-streams

(Thomas Watson, "A Christian on Earth, Still in Heaven")

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." Colossians 3:1-2

You shall never go to heaven when you die--unless you begin heaven here. Grace puts high thoughts, divine affections, a kind of heavenly ambition into the soul.

Oh, how sordid is it for him who has his hope in heaven --to have his heart upon the earth! The 'lapwing' insect has a crown on her head--and yet feeds on dung. A fit emblem of those who have a crown of profession on their head--yet feed with eagerness on earthly vanities.

Let all the golden streams of worldly delights run into the heart of a man--yet the heart is not full. Strain out the quintessence of the creature--it turns to froth, "Vanity of vanities!" But in God is sweet satisfaction and contentment. He is a hive of sweetness, a mirror of beauty, a storehouse of riches! He is the river of pleasure, where the soul bathes with infinite delight!

The bird, the higher it takes its flight, the sweeter it sings. Just so, the higher the soul is raised above the world--the sweeter joy it has. How is the heart inflamed in prayer! How is it ravished in holy meditation! These joys are those honey-streams which flow out of the rock, Christ! He has those tastes of God's love--which are the beginnings of heaven. So sweet is this kind of life, that it can drop sweetness into our troubles and afflictions--that we shall be scarcely sensible of them. It can turn the prison into a paradise; the furnace into a festival; it can sweeten death. A soul elevated by grace, can rejoice to think of dying. Death will but cut the string, and the soul, that bird of paradise, shall fly away and be at rest. Happiness is but the cream of holiness!