

## **Edward Donnelly, “Biblical Teachings on the Doctrines of Heaven and Hell”:**

“What about those who are nearest to us on earth? Will I still have a special relationship with my wife in heaven? Will you still treat your parents as father and mother? Will our close friends here be our close friends there? It[’s] all very well to look forward to meeting tens of thousands. But are we not created in such a way as to still want an inner circle? Such questions are natural, but not easy to answer.

We will certainly know one another in heaven. King David looked forward to being reunited with his dead son there. “I shall go to him,” he said .... Paul urges bereaved Christians not to “sorrow as others who have no hope. For ... God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus” .... The reason for not grieving like unbelievers is that their parting is not permanent. They will meet again. We cannot know less in heaven than we did on earth and so we will recognize there those known to us here. That is surely comforting.

We’re also told that many aspects of marriage will no longer be appropriate in glory, where [to quote from Mark here] “they neither marry nor are given in marriage” .... There will be no reproduction. The husband will not need a helper nor the wife someone to cherish her protectively. Children will not require parental care. The relationship between Christ and his church will be so obvious as to render unnecessary a human illustration.

Does this mean, then, that your husband or my best friend will be no more to us than anyone else among the multitudes of the redeemed? I don’t think so. For every good thing will be better in heaven than on earth. If God has given you a Christian husband or wife, parent or child, brother or friend, you can be sure that, whatever the parameters of your future relationship with them may be, the friendship will be closer there than it is now. You will know them more intimately, love them more intensely, and delight in them more fully. It is impossible that we should lose anything good in that place where good abounds. We can look at Christians whom we love especially and praise God that we will continue to love them, more and more, for ever and ever.”

## **Sinclair B. Ferguson, “Let’s Study Mark”:**

“God’s covenant promise to save his people”—the covenant promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, “I will be your God and you will be my people”  
“God’s covenant promise to save his people would not be of any significance if it were overcome and shattered by death. It would be a tawdry salvation which lasted only for this life.”

## **Mae Taylor Roberts, “The Meeting in the Air”:**

“You have heard of little Moses in the bulrush  
You have heard of fearless David and his sling  
You have heard the story told of dreaming Joseph  
And of Jonah and the whale you often sing  
There are many, many others through the Bible  
I should like to meet them all I do declare  
By and by the Lord will surely let us meet them  
At that meeting in the air  
There is going to be a meeting in the air  
In the sweet sweet bye and bye  
I am going to meet you, meet you over there  
In that home beyond the sky  
Such singing you will hear—never heard by mortal ear  
’Twill be glorious I do declare  
And God’s own son will be the leading one  
At the meeting in the air  
Many things there will be missing in that meeting  
For the mourner’s bench will have no place at all  
There will never be a sermon preached to sinners  
For the sinners had refused to heed the call  
There will be no mourning over wayward loved ones  
There will be no lonely nights of pleading prayer  
All our burdens and our anguish will be lifted  
At that meeting in the air  
There the doubters will be missing altogether  
All the skeptics will be absent on that day  
There will be no grumblers present to disturb us  
And the Achans will be busy far away  
There the saints will have His seal upon their foreheads  
Dressed in raiment none but ransomed ones can wear  
All who have the wedding garment will be present  
At that meeting in the air”