

# A TASTE OF HEAVEN

By Keith Greer

The week of February sixth through the ninth in 2000, I attended the Florida College Lectures in Tampa, Florida. This was my second time attending these Lectures, the other in 1990.

A good preaching friend from California attended with me and we stayed with a fellow colleague in the Tampa area. All the time during those four days we were on the run, lectures in the morning and evening, discussions in the afternoon and late evenings.

Each evening, prior to the evening lectures, brother R.J. Stevens would lead the audience in thirty minutes of singing. There were brethren from every state and some from other countries, all blending their voices in praise to God. Hearing and singing these songs made shivers down my spine!

**"Lord I Believe", "It is Well With My Soul", "A Beautiful Life", "There Is A God", "When All of God's Singers Get Home", "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be"**, and many more. Surely, this must be a taste of the singing around the throne of God with all the saints in heaven!

The speakers of these discussions had prepared well. Subjects were presented in an understandable and forceful manner. The theme of this Lecture, **"In His Image"**, discussed the image that we must strive to be like in all of our earthly relationships: husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, male and female roles in the church, and in society.

On Monday evening, I was surprised to see a preacher, who taught where I grew up as a child. It was indeed uplifting, talking with him about the past. Also there, were some members from that congregation now living in Florida. Visiting with them for the first time in over 20 years brought back some fond recollections of days gone by.

Many who take my bulletin, whom I have never met, noticed my name tag and told me how much they liked my bulletin. Others were encouraged to know that the Lord's people are "seeking the lost" in a city like Las Vegas. Comments like that I heard many times during my 13 years as a gospel preacher in "sin city."

Yet, in all honesty one of the things which really touched me, were the young people. They were friendly, courteous, and very helpful. Young people were in attendance each evening. It was so encouraging to see young people who were concerned about spiritual matters. It did my heart good to see the "new generation" of Christians. May their tribe increase!

Brother Ferrell Jenkins was the head of the Bible Department at Florida College at that time. On the last night of the Lectures I wanted him to know how uplifting these Lectures were to me personally. Isolated somewhat in Las Vegas (next faithful church was in southern California, 4 hours away), and being with hundreds of people of like precious faith, fellow preachers, and those who are keeping their focus on spiritual things, did my heart good.

My only regret was that my family was not with me, (not only my wife and children, but also my spiritual family at Vegas Drive). What motivation it would have been, to be in the presence of so many fellow Christians. Four days of this type of fellowship would be worth more than one hundred sermons!

Finally, let me leave you with this thought. Why do we seek heaven as our eternal home? Many reasons could be given. One I know is the company we will be keeping. For a few days I was privileged to experience it! Brethren, do not fail to seek out times you can be with other Christians, it can really strengthen your faith. Gospel Meeting season will soon be upon us again – will you take the time to attend services here and in other area churches? Try it – you may be surprised the good it will do! \*\*\*