The Man Who Kept Looking Up

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I. Introduction.

A. The thing that kept Abraham going is that he saw the city of God. (Hebrews 11:13)

B. Abraham knew that the world was not his home.

C. The vision of the heavenly city kept Abraham going. (2 Corinthians 5)

D. There were three cities involved in Abraham's life, and there are three involved in our lives as well.

II. A city behind: Ur.

A. Every believer has turned his back to the past.

B. Abraham took a giant step when he trusted God to leave Ur. (Acts 7)

C. The Jewish answer was to go back in the face of trouble. The right answer is to go forward.

D. We must be careful about the pull of the past.

III. A city beside: Sodom.

A. Sodom is our next door neighbor in our society.

B. Abraham was separated from Sodom. It is possible to live in an evil society and not be tainted by it.

C. Friendship with the world is enmity with God.

D. We are not to conform to the world. (Romans 12:2)

E. Separation is not isolation. (Genesis 14)

F. We are to do good and pray for the people in the midst of society. (Jeremiah 29)

G. Abraham was separated, he served and he prayed for Sodom.

IV. A city before and beyond: heaven.

A. Heaven is not just a destination—it is a motivation.

B. Jesus was motivated by heaven. (John 7:32)

C. Knowing that you are going to heaven is motivation for an uncompromising witness, an unselfish life, an untroubled heart and an undivided church. (John 17; 14)

Application questions:
1. What from the past pulls you in a negative way?
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2. How would you distinguish separation from the world from isolation?
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3. How does knowing our destination motivate us to witness? Explain.
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