

Affordable Housing

Finding an affordable place to live has become increasingly difficult for many American families. Housing costs have risen, rents remain high, and in many communities the supply of homes ordinary working families can afford has not kept pace with the need.

Across the United States, estimates indicate that the country is short roughly **3.7 million homes**. The shortage is even greater for those with the lowest incomes. Nationally, there is a shortage of about **7.2 million affordable and available rental homes** for extremely low-income households.

Texas has not escaped the problem. Although our state continues to build thousands of homes and apartments, rapid population growth has created tremendous demand. Texas has been estimated to be short more than **300,000 housing units** overall and more than **700,000 affordable rental homes** for extremely low-income renters.

Here in the Dallas–Fort Worth area, the problem hits even closer to home. The Metroplex has been estimated to be short more than **100,000 housing units** overall. Among extremely low-income renters, approximately **225,000 households** compete for only about **42,000 affordable and available rental homes**—only about **18 homes for every 100 households needing one**.

Those numbers represent more than statistics. They represent families searching for apartments, parents trying to keep a roof over their children, elderly people living on fixed incomes, and working people wondering whether next month’s paycheck will cover the rent.

Housing shortages are a very real problem on earth. But Christians are looking forward to a place where there will never be a housing shortage. Jesus said:

“In my Father’s house are many homes. If it weren’t so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.” —John 14:2 (WEB)

What a wonderful promise! Jesus did not tell His disciples to worry about whether there would be enough room. He said there are **“many homes”** (many mansions – NKJV) and that He was going to **“prepare a place.”**

Abraham was looking for that kind of home long before Jesus spoke those words. Hebrews 11:10 says that he ***“looked for the city which has the foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”***

Every house on earth rests upon a foundation built by men. Foundations crack. Roofs leak. Neighborhoods change. Houses grow old and eventually disappear. But Abraham was looking beyond anything men could build. He was looking for a city designed and built by God Himself.

Hebrews continues by describing faithful men and women as **“strangers and pilgrims on the earth”** who desired **“a better country, that is, a heavenly one.”** Then comes this beautiful promise: **“He has prepared a city for them”** (Hebrews 11:13–16).

Think about how closely that matches the promise of Jesus. Jesus said, **“I am going to prepare a place for you.”** Hebrews says, **“He has prepared a city for them.”**

We spend much of our lives trying to find, buy, rent, maintain, and pay for a place to live. Yet Scripture reminds us, **“For we don’t have here an enduring city, but we seek that which is to come”** (Hebrews 13:14). No earthly address is permanent.

There will be no mortgage payment in heaven. No rent increase. No foreclosure. No eviction. No repairs. No property taxes. No unsafe neighborhood. And there will never be a housing shortage. **But having plenty of room in heaven does not mean everyone will automatically live there.** Jesus has prepared the place. You must prepare to go there.

The New Testament tells you how. **Hear the gospel** (Romans 10:17). **Believe in Jesus Christ** (John 8:24). **Repent of your sins** (Acts 2:38). **Confess your faith in Christ** (Romans 10:10). Be **baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of sins** (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27), and then remain faithful to Him (Revelation 2:10).

Maybe you have questions. Maybe you believe in Christ but have never obeyed the gospel. Maybe you would simply like someone to sit down with you, open the Bible, and study what God says. We would be honored to do that with you.

There is room in the Father’s house. Christ has prepared the place. God has prepared the city. **Are you preparing to make heaven your home?**