

## Prepared for Eternity

Revelation 21:1-6

11/18/07

### Intro

We have now come to the place in Revelation where we get to study about what happens in eternity. When we come to Revelation 21, the seven year Tribulation period is over, the nations that will come against Israel have been destroyed, Christ came to the earth and ruled for a 1,000 years, finally a great throne of judgment. Of course Satan will be gone forever; the Antichrist and the false prophet are all cast into the lake of fire.

Then comes eternity!! I believe the reason we are to study and understand what is to come is so that we can prepare our lives now for eternity.

Here are some insights into eternity and the changes that God wants on our lives that will prepare us and give us a sense of urgency to change now.

### I. We Will Live on a New Earth

- If you were to take a survey and ask people where they will spend eternity, most people would say that they will live in heaven.
- That is such a common understanding that when I speak about eternity, I talk about heaven as well.
- But here we learn that we will actually live out eternity on earth. Not this one, but a new one.

#### A. Everything here will burn

- This is so important to remember. We put so much value on the things of the earth, but they are destined for the burn pile.

**II Peter 3:10, But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**

- What we need is a heavenly perspective. In other words, we need to make sure we don't have too much of our heart invested in the stuff that will burn.

**Colossians 3:1-3, Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth; for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**Illus – My first car was a beat up Toyota station wagon with dents on every corner. It was easy not to value it too highly, but then I bought a Javelin with Starsky and Hutch stripes.**

- We need to hold the things of the earth loosely, but value the things which will remain. Jesus called it laying up treasures in heaven.

**Matthew 6:19-21, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”**

B. Redeem the time you have

- While we now understand that we should hold the things of the earth loosely because everything here is going to burn, we should also understand that we should make the most of the time here on earth that we do have.
- In the new heaven and new earth, time will not be an issue. It's only an issue for us now; and we have an awareness of time to help us make the most of it.

**Illus – our dogs have no sense of time. Their agenda is simple; play, eat, sleep. They don't even care if they get old.**

- But we do have a sense of time and Paul instructs us to make the most of what we have.

**Colossians 4:2-6, Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. NKJV**

- The point is that there will no need to share Christ in heaven, everyone will know God, He will be right there. There will also be no need for prayer; we will know Him as we are fully known.

- There will also be no need of reading scripture – they will all be there.

**James 4:13-14, Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.**

- If life is a vapor, then we should do something with it.

**App – “Use the good china,” don't value stuff over people.**

**Illus – We took our family bowling recently. How much longer will we have them with us?**

**App – invest in that which is eternal.**

**Philippians 3:7-8, But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,**

**II. God Himself Will Be With Us**

- Verse 3, God Himself will be among them is a wonderful promise.
- But see also verses 22-23, the glory of God will illumine it. God will be among us in glory. What will that mean to us?

- A. The former things will not come to mind
- John immediately explains that in verse 4.
  - “He will wipe every tear from their eyes... no more crying or pain. Why? Because the first things have passed away.

**Isaiah 65:17, For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.**

- There are so many things on this earth that cause pain and tears, but these things will not come to mind.

**App --** There’s actually a great application for us in this. We would gain so much freedom if we could let go of the things that have hurt us in the past.

**Philippians 3:12-14, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

- B. He makes all things new
- Verse 5 then follows powerfully with, “Behold, I am making all things new.”
  - The Greek here is helpful, I am making all things new is in the present active sense. In other words, things will not become old.

**App – Here we struggle with things becoming old. Our bodies get old and worn out, cars become old, houses, and all kinds of stuff all become old.**

**Illus –There won’t be any need for “new and improved.” We keep finding ways to improve on the old; think of how much has changed just in ten years of the computer. We used to be fascinated by the game “pong,” now that game is laughable.**

- Today we struggle with the flesh, but we won’t have that struggle when God makes all things new.
- We have some insights into this point in both Mark’s gospel and in Romans...

**Mark 14:38-39, “Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**

**Romans 7:18, For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.**

- It’s absolutely vital for us to understand that He is in the process of making things new right now!

**Ezekiel 36:26-27, Moreover, I will give you anew heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

**II Corinthians 5:17, Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**

C. He gives to the one who thirsts

- Verse 6, “I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.
- That is the gospel in one verse.
- This is God’s heart for us right now.

**Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13 Come you who are thirsty**

**John 7:37-39, Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**