

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Good Riddance"

INTRODUCTION

- **Main Idea:** Heaven is not only glorious because of **what is there**; Heaven is also glorious because of **what is not there**.

"Heaven is the absence of all that is evil, the presence of all that is good. *Heaven is all that the loving heart of God can conceive and all that the omnipotent hand of God can provide.*" (Adrian Rogers)

WHAT WILL NOT BE IN HEAVEN?

1. **No SEA (Revelation 21:1 – "the sea was no more")**
 - Consider that three-fourths of the current earth is water. (Some theologians believe that seas didn't appear until the flood in Genesis 6-8.)
 - The seas today are a barrier to divide the human race.
 - One day there will be **no more separation**, barriers between peoples.
2. **No SORROW (Revelation 21:4 – "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes")**
 - Life is a trail of tears (Psalm 42:3). All across the world today are people crying.
 - *Sin creates tears; God collects tears; Heaven cancels tears.*

Psalm 56:8 – You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?

- This promise is for later, not now. **Today, you're allowed to cry. You must sorrow.**

"I've been blessed with many people who have been willing to share my sorrow, to just be sad with me. Others, however, seem to want to rush me through my sadness." (Nancy Guthrie)

3. **No SEPULCHRES (Revelation 21:4 – "and death shall be no more")**
 - In heaven, there will be no more death: *No grief, no graves, no goodbyes.*

"I've been to far too many funerals" (De Courcy)

 - **We all live under death's shadow.** 60 million people die every year. *Life's journey is a death march.* There is coming a day when death itself will cease.
4. **No SUFFERING (Revelation 21:4 – "neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain")**
 - Sometimes ongoing pain can be worse than death.
 - Types of pain faced today: *physical pain, mental pain, circumstantial pain, relational pain, spiritual pain, parental pain.*
 - Sometimes it takes more courage to live than it does to die.
5. **No SANCTUARY (Revelation 21:22 – "And I saw no temple in it")**
 - No temple means that there is no localized expression of God's presence on the new earth.
 - In heaven, we will enjoy *God's unfiltered presence*. The whole new earth will be a holy of holies.
6. **No SIN (Revelation 22:3 – "No longer will there be anything accursed")**
 - History is coming full circle: All things will be made new.

Sermon Application Questions

February 9, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

In the sermon, Pastor Philip reflected on the sea that separates him from his parents today. His parents live in Northern Ireland.

Seas separate us from soldiers leaving for deployment, missionaries leaving for ministry, children leaving for college, and married children moving to a different part of the country.

We are taught in Revelation 21:1 that in heaven, there will be **no more sea**. There will no more be barriers between people, nations and loved ones.

How did this truth encourage you in your walk with the Lord?

2

Pastor Philip shared with us that in heaven, there will be no more sorrow. Revelation 21:4 teaches us that “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Yet he admonished us that this is a promise for later, not now. Today we are allowed to cry. **We will experience sorrow.**

Psalms 56:8 says, “You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?”

How can we as a church pray for and encourage those who are experiencing sorrow in this life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Isaiah 65:17

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

2 Peter 3:13

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:5

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:22-27

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Revelation 22:3

No long will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

2

Read Revelation 21:1-5. Note your own observations about this text. How does this passage strengthen our hope in Christ?

How should we live in light of this truth?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Reflect on the words that the English hymnwriter Frances Havergal wrote to the American songwriter Fanny Crosby:

*Dear blind sister over the sea
An English heart goes forth to thee.
We are linked by a cable of faith and song,
Flashing bright sympathy swift along.
One in the East and one in the West,
Singing for Him whom our souls love best.
Singing for Jesus! Telling His love
All the way to our home above,
Where the severing sea, with its restless tide
Never shall hinder and never divide.
Sister, what shall our meeting soon be
When our hearts shall sing and our eyes shall see?*

What are your personal reflections on this theme? How does this perspective give us comfort in this life?

2

People today are facing: *physical pain, mental pain, circumstantial pain, relational pain, spiritual pain, parental pain.*

Perhaps think of two or three people who are facing life's challenges and struggles today. Commit to praying for them this week.

Ask the Lord to sustain them and do a beautiful work of grace in their hearts.