

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Plenty to Do – Part 1"

INTRODUCTION

- **A caricature of heaven is that heaven is boring.** This is offensive because the implication is that God is boring.

Response:

1. People in heaven will want to be there – "Heaven is an acquired taste" (Psalm 34:8).
2. People in heaven will have bodies/spirits that are glorified, fit for heaven (Phil. 3:20-21).
3. God is not boring – he is the "blessed God" (1 Tim. 1:11, 6:15).

THE LIFE TO COME WILL BE MARKED BY STOPPING (REVELATION 14:13)

- **Revelation 14:13** – "that they may rest from their labors".
- The idea of rest speaks of "*taking stock*": looking back on your life and having something to be content with.
- The day is coming when our opportunity to serve the Lord on earth will be over with.

"We have all eternity to celebrate our victories, but only a few short hours to win them." (Amy Carmichael)

Richard Baxter, "The Saints' Everlasting Rest":

- We will **rest** from the devil's attacks.
- We will **rest** from the opposition of an alien culture.
- We will **rest** from fighting temptation of any kind.
- We will **rest** from the sorrows and effects of sin.
- We will **rest** from the fears and conflicts of conscience.

THE LIFE TO COME WILL BE MARKED BY SOLVING (1 CORINTHIANS 13:11-12)

- In heaven, we will experience an **increase of knowledge**.
- Paul's point in **1 Corinthians 13:11-12** is that our knowledge is partial and our understanding is somewhat dim. There is coming a day when our **knowledge will increase** and our understanding will expand.
- **Revelation 7:17** – "*God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes*": this may include an understanding of why we cried so many tears here on earth.

"God sees the big picture. We only see pieces of the puzzle." (De Courcy)

THE LIFE TO COME WILL BE MARKED BY STUDYING (EPHESIANS 2:6-7)

- **Ephesians 2:7** – that he might **show** the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- The word **show** can also mean "reveal." God will spend the ages to come revealing to us the riches of his grace.

"We will constantly be more amazed with God, more in love with God, and thus ever more relishing his presence and our relationship with him." (Sam Storms)

Sermon Application Questions

January 26, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip taught us that heaven is an **acquired taste**: “It’s acquired by those who have tasted and seen that the Lord is good.” (Psalm 34:8)

The spiritual blessings in this life are a foretaste of the even greater blessings we will receive in heaven.

What are some of the blessings you have received here on earth that have whet your appetite for life in heaven?

Read **Philippians 3:19**. How does the longing of the believer in Christ contrast with the desires of the unbeliever who does not know God?

2

Amy Carmichael has observed, “We have all eternity to celebrate our victories, but only a few short hours to win them.”

Jesus said, “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.” (John 9:4)

What are the opportunities in your life to serve Christ? How would your life be different if you were characterized by a sense of urgency in your service to the Lord?

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.

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Habakkuk 2:14

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Read Revelation 22:1-21 as one unit of thought. What are the truths in this text that fuel your longing for heaven?

2 How would you use this passage to comfort someone who is in a season of grieving?

How would you use this passage to minister the truth of the gospel to an unbeliever?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pastor Philip told the story of a believer and his wife who went through a difficult time. They had an out of control child and a collapsing business. During this time, they went away for a weekend to gather their thoughts and the wife brought a thousand-piece puzzle.

The couple spent a weekend putting it together and talking. When they completed it, the wife took one of the pieces of the puzzles and handed it to her husband and said, *“this is our understanding of what’s going on in our life in the midst of life. God sees the big picture. We only see pieces of the puzzle.”*

The believer took the puzzle piece and put it in his pocket to remind him that we see only a piece of the big picture.

Is there any circumstance in your life that you are finding difficult to understand?

Perhaps write out a prayer of trust God who sees the big picture and knows how all the pieces fit together.

Randy Alcorn has written, “Earth is an in-between world touched by both Heaven and Hell. Earth leads directly into Heaven or directly into Hell, affording a choice between the two.

For Christians, this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven.”

As you rejoice in the hope of heaven, remember that there are multitudes of unbelievers who surround us who are heading to an eternity in hell. Who are the unbelievers in your life that God has given you the opportunity to influence?

Take the opportunity pray for specific unbelievers by name, that they may have eternal life in heaven.