

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Plenty to Do – Part 2"

INTRODUCTION

- A caricature of heaven is that heaven is boring. Heaven will be *thrilling*, an ever-expanding experience of God.

Review from the Last Sermon:

1. The Life to Come will be Marked by **Stopping** (Revelation 14:13).
2. The Life to Come will be Marked by **Solving** (1 Corinthians 13:11-12)
3. The Life to Come will be Marked by **Studying** (Ephesians 2:6-7)

THE LIFE TO COME WILL BE MARKED BY SERVING (REVELATION 22:3)

- **Revelation 22:3 (NKJV)** – "his servants shall **serve** him".
- The new heaven and the new earth will be "*Eden revisited and restored*". We will engage in work that is fulfilling and even restful.
- **Revelation 7:15** – "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and **serve him day and night** in his temple;"

"The Scriptures remind us concerning those who have died that "their deeds follow with them" (Rev. 14:13) . . . "With" (*meta*) suggests that the works follow "in close association with" the believer. The works go to glory together with the believer." (Paul Enns, Heaven Revealed)

THE LIFE TO COME WILL BE MARKED BY SUPERVISING (REVELATION 22:5)

- **Revelation 2:26** – The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.
- **Matthew 5:5** – "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."
- **Luke 12:43-44** – Blessed is that servant who his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

"The more faithful you are. . . the more authority you'll exercise. . . that's not a power trip. It's a desire for godly ambition to be something for God in this life and be something even more for God in the next." (De Courcy)

THE LIFE TO COME WILL BE MARKED BY SOCIALIZING (HEBREWS 12:22-23)

- **Hebrews 12:23** – and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven. . .
- Heaven will be a place of **expanding friendship and relationship**, a community without disruption or failure.

"And now so many of my acquaintances have gone there, that it sometimes seems to me that I know more people in heaven than I do on earth." (D.L. Moody)

THE LIFE TO COME WILL BE MARKED BY SINGING (REVELATION 4-5)

- There are **14 different songs** in the book of Revelation!
- The worship in heaven will be *holistic, heightened, harmonious, and hearty*.

"I shall see him face to face and tell the story -- saved by grace." (Fanny Crosby)

Sermon Application Questions

February 2, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

In this sermon, Pastor Philip taught us about four activities of heaven: Heaven will be marked by **serving, supervising, socializing** and **singing**.

1 How did these truths encourage you spiritually?

Were there any of these points that were especially meaningful to you in your walk with Christ?

Joel Stein, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times wrote this:

2 *“Heaven is totally overrated. It seems boring. Clouds, listening to people play the harp. It should be somewhere you can’t wait to go, like a luxury hotel. Maybe blue skies and soft music were enough to keep people in line in the 17th century, but Heaven has to step it up a bit. They’re basically getting by because they only have to be better than Hell.”*

Based on the teaching in Pastor Philip’s message, how would you respond biblically to Stein’s statement? What verses from Scripture would you use to correct his viewpoint?

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.

Matthew 19:28-29

Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

Hebrews 12:22-23

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

Revelation 1:5-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

Revelation 2:26

The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

Revelation 7:15

Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

Read Luke 19:35-48. What is the reward that the master gives to the faithful servant in verse 44?

2

Pastor Philip taught us: *"The more faithful you are. . . the more authority you'll exercise. . . that's not a power trip. It's a desire for godly ambition to be something for God in this life and be something even more for God in the next."*

How does this teaching motivate us to faithful service?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Reflect on the words of D.L. Moody:

1

"When I was a boy, I thought of heaven as a great, shining city, with vast walls and domes and spires, and with nobody in it except white-robed angels, who were strangers to me. By and by my little brother died; and I thought of a great city with walls and domes and spires, and a flock of cold, unknown angels, and one little fellow that I was acquainted with. He was the only one I knew at the time. Then another brother died; and there were two that I knew. Then my acquaintances began to die; and the flock continually grew. But it was not until I had sent one of my little children to his Heavenly Parent - God - that I began to think I had a little in there myself. A second went, a third went; a fourth sent; and by this time I had so many acquaintances in heaven, that I did not see any more walls and domes and spires. I began to think of the residents of the celestial city as my friends. And now so many of my acquaintances have gone there, that it sometimes seems to me that I know more people in heaven than I do on earth."

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

Fanny Crosby wrote:

2

*When my lifework is ended and I cross the swelling tide,
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see;
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.*

Meditate on this great theme of being in the presence of Christ. Perhaps say a prayer of thanksgiving to Christ for the great hope of being with Him one day in heaven.