

A Glimpse of Heaven

Revelation 21:1-9

Introduction

- Last week I mentioned we would take a small glimpse at a look into our final glory
- To be honest, after really dwelling on this, I have very little real idea of what I am talking about
 - I mean this. Because...
 - The Bible says a lot about how good heaven [or glorification is], and what it looks like, but not what it feels like
 - What I mean by that is:
 - I know what it feels like not to sin, I have no idea what it is like... not to be able to sin
- I have four things I think this text tells us:
 - All that is good and new involves the Bride
 - It is granted and sustained by the glory of God
 - Old things and bad things [fallen things] are done away with
 - Then that which is perfect endures forever, to the glory of God
- I'm going to camp mostly on the last one
- But I also want you to think about this: This message created [for me] more questions than answers. But they were questions of hope

Message

- What is good and new involves the Bride
 - Look at the difference the contrast
 - (v:7) the children of God vs.
 - (v:8) The enemies of God
 - (v:9a) the children of God are the Bride
 - What's the difference?
 - Because I'm still cowardly, an idolater, etc....
 - The Lamb
 - My hope lies in a person not a place, it can't
 - My hope lies in Jesus performance not mine
 - Eternal joy is given to those [the Bride] who:

- Belong to the Lamb – Jesus
 - Desire the Lamb
- (v:6b) ‘ *“To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”* ’
 - Jesus will satisfy all our longings and desires
 - The banquet in (chp. 19) is not just a symbol of His closeness, but a symbol of God’s all-satisfying goodness
 - It’s not about a meal
- That all-satisfying goodness...
- Is granted and sustained by the glory of God
 - Not centered on the Bride, but benefits the Bride
 - It is centered on God
 - God prepares the new heavens & earth
 - God who will make all things new
 - God makes us His children
 - (John 17:24) ‘ *“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given Me [the Bride], may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that you have given Me because you loved Me before the foundation of the world.”* ’
 - Just like all of Scripture it is all about Jesus
 - A reminder, this is the purpose of marriage
 - It displays the nature of how Jesus loves the Bride
 - We can’t miss that
 - Because Jesus is perfect, everything must be as well
- Old things and bad things [fallen things] are done away with
 - And this means everything. The whole thing starts over
 - (2 Peter 3:10-13) *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise*

we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

- Peter is given understanding of this truth we’re looking at in Revelation this morning
- I’m actually going to weave this point with the next one:
- Only that which is perfect endures forever, for God’s eternal glory **AND** our eternal joy
 - They’re linked
 - Again, I know what it feels like not to sin, I have no idea what it is like not to be able to sin
 - I know those times when I’m tempted but refrain
 - But, what’s it like not to be tempted?
 - Like I said, I have more questions than answers this morning so bear with me
 - Sitting on the porch with Shelly never thinking about what I need
 - Never saying an unkind word again to those I love
 - Someone will walk away and I’ll never think, “I bet they don’t care...”
 - I don’t know, do you?
 - That is how **other** glory is going to be
 - Here’s what we can know:
 - Things too wonderful
 - (2 Corinthians 12:3-4) *“And I know that this man...⁴ was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.”* [NIV]
 - [aside] Not permitted...which means no one can write a book
 - But, I think there’s a reason:
 - What would you say?
 - No eye has seen or heart imagined
 - (1 Corinthians 2:9) ‘ *“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him”* ’
 - This is part of the problem with the book of Revelation
 - We don’t have categories, so it will always fall short

- ☐ Think about the Trinity?
 - ☐ Explain that one
 - ☐ It always falls short
 - ☐ There is a difference between knowing and understanding
 - Understanding has a sense of experience
 - God is soooo glorious, we can only see dimly (1 Cor. 13)
 - ☐ We can have a small level of understanding
 - ☐ And because God is so infinite
 - ☐ It can be big for us in this life
 - Let's try to just think through what we can know:
 - (Isaiah 65:17) ‘ *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.”* ’
 - Think about not being able to recall all the pain of this life
 - Every wrong done to you
 - And every shameful act you have committed
 - Gone
 - (v:4) Wipe away tears
 - We've just come out of the great judgment
 - In which the Bride will not suffer condemnation but accountability
 - I believe we, just once, will be given a look at the fullness of our sin
 - Why? To understand the fullness of God's immeasurable grace to us
 - Response – tears
 - ☐ Not just tears of sorrow
 - ☐ Tears of joy for the glorious nature of God's grace
 - ☐ Like when your kids fail to call and they're hours late
 - Then God wipes them away
 - ☐ Forever.
 - ☐ There is NO sorrow
 - There is no pain
 - One day I will never know what this broken down body feels like
 - No arthritis, no cerebral palsy, Alzheimer's
 - And even more...

- It's not just what's taken away, but what is given and increased:

- We will no longer be wrapped in the righteousness of Christ, we will be permeated by it, enveloped by it
 - (2 Thessalonians 1:10) *“when He comes on that day to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, ~~because our testimony to you was believed.~~”*
 - IN His saints, not BY His saints
 - (Matthew 13:43) ‘ *“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”* ’
 - What will it feel like to shine?
 - You see what I mean when I say I have questions?
 - I don’t know what it will feel like to shine, but I will
 - Because God’s glory sooo permeates all of my being.
- Let’s look at (v:5) He is making [and will continue to make] all things new
 - Your glorification will never end, but instead, will ever increase
 - As God is infinite, our ability to know Him cannot be exhausted
 - Our ability to obtain and enjoy pleasure cannot diminish or stay stagnant
 - Our capacity to behold and enjoy a new perfection of God will every increase
 - There will never be a time when you ask your Father for more and He will not pour out in abundance, AND, you will fully understand
 - For everything God does, and has done, we will nod in assent of being good and right...even hell...

- Some sins to think about:

- Lust
 - You will never lust after anything ungodly
 - You will only desire what God provides from Himself
 - You will never look, or be tempted to look at the opposite sex with evil intent
 - There will never be an unsatisfied longing or desire
 - Every desire is met with perfect timing to increase your joy
- Greed
 - You will never think you do not have enough

- Your only thought will be an expectant giving by your Father
- To have more will only mean more of God, which means more of that which is exceedingly perfect
- Deceit
 - You will never again be tempted to act in a way that tries to make people like you.
 - You will never try to be more than you are
 - There is no ability to feel inadequate
- Envy
 - We envy because we're idolaters
 - And it's the poisonous fruit of dissatisfaction with God
 - Whatever reward another has you will only rejoice in
 - Whatever people had in this life will not be a conscious memory in the next
 - You will always measure up
- Fear
 - A lack of trust in God's sovereignty
 - You will never again think you're alone. Or God will not provide
 - The Last Battle
 - *'His voice could only just be heard above the roar of the water but next moment everyone saw that he had plunged into the Pool...The water was not biting cold as all of them...expected, but of a delicious foamy coolness. They all found they were swimming straight for the Waterfall itself. "This is absolutely crazy," said Eustace to Edmund. "I know. And yet -" said Edmund. "Isn't it wonderful?" said Lucy. "Have you noticed one can't feel afraid, even if one wants to? Try it." "By Jove, neither one can," said Eustace after he had tried.'*
 - As hard as you try, you can't and won't
 - You see perfect love casts out fear
- What this tells me now is that I don't have to worry about the greedy, the deceitful, etc., God will take care of it
 - God will bring perfect justice
 - Do you really think Hitler escaped justice by his suicide?
- Now think of this: in Christ, these are yours now as much as we are able - dimly

- Jesus is enough to satisfy your lust – now
 - Jesus is the treasure that moves you away from greed
 - Because Jesus measures up perfectly you do too
 - Because Jesus took the wrath of God for you, you have nothing to fear
 - We can have some of this NOW!
- (2 Peter 3:11) *“Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?”*
 - What are we living for?
 - What encourages our heart when the trials of this life can seem to overwhelm?
 - It’s promises
 - (6b-7) *“...To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son[s and daughters].”*
 - It is a bounty that comes to us free, but at great cost – His Son
 - It’s not only possible, but it’s possible because of Who gives
 - Who’s that?
 - He who is seated on the throne (v:5)
 - He who is faithful
 - The Alpha and the Omega (v:6)
 - the beginning and the end
 - I hope you’ll see I make you no promises today, He does
 - That is what is supposed to move us away from sin
 - What’s one thing [one sin] today you can ask your Father to move you away from – and one step closer to the joy He wants for you?
 - Let’s pray