

SETTING OUR MINDS ON HEAVEN

Revelation 21:1-4

As pilgrims in this fallen world, God's Word exhorts us as believers in Christ to diligently set our minds and hearts on the realities of heaven, our eternal home (Colossians 3:1-2). The truths about eternal life in heaven should be our constant longing and ultimate hope (John 14:1-3). Reflecting on the Apostle John's glorious vision of heaven, here are three compelling reasons why we should set our affection on heaven.

1. *God's people will enjoy eternal life in _____.*

God's saving plan does not only include redeeming us, His people, from our sins. His saving work also includes redeeming the entire creation from the curse of sin (Rom. 8:20-21). The fulfillment of this plan to redeem this whole creation will happen when our Lord Jesus Christ returns to bring God's people to our eternal home, the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-2; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Isa. 65:17). This present universe which is cursed by sin will be purged of everything evil and sinful. In the new heaven and the new earth, there will be the permanent removal of anything wicked. Our eternal life will be marked by perfect holiness, endless joy and blessedness. This new heaven and new earth is prepared by God Himself to be enjoyed by all of His redeemed people, His church.

2. *God's people will enjoy His _____.*

The greatest beauty and attraction in the new heaven and the new earth is the personal presence of God. Heaven is a place where believers will enjoy the eternal bliss of unbroken fellowship and communion with God (Rev. 21:3). This enjoyment of God's presence is the glorious fulfillment of the divine promise that God Himself will dwell with His people and He will be with them as their God (Lev. 26:11-12; Ezek. 37:27). God Himself is heaven's greatest reward. The culmination of this blessing is the beatific vision, the glorious experience of beholding the face of God in Christ (Rev.22:4).

3. *God's people will enjoy His _____.*

The new heaven and the new earth is a place without sin and the effects of sin. Since God Himself will wipe away every tear from the eyes of His people, there will be perfect peace in our eternal home. In the words of the Apostle John, "death shall be no more, neither shall be mourning, nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

Longing for the eternal joy of heaven is one of the true marks of a genuine believer. How much of your thought life is devoted to reflecting on the truth of heaven? Is your lifestyle a proof that you're no longer in love with this fallen world and that you are diligently setting your mind on your eternal home? Humbly ask the Spirit of God today to search your heart and then fill your heart with a genuine love for Christ and deep longing and earnest desire for the eternal blessing of heaven.