

Sermon Follow-up — September 6, 2020 — Eternal Rest in the New Heaven and New Earth

Preacher – Travis

Scripture Reading – Revelation 16:1-21

Sermon Recap:

The need that we have for rest points ahead to the ultimate rest we were designed for. Chapter 21-22 reveal the glorified Christ who invites us into eternal rest with Him. This picture of rest comes from a city.

What is absent from the city? There is no sea (v.1), no sorrow (v.4), no sin (v.8), and no temple (v.22)

- A. No Sea: Throughout the Bible, the sea is symbolic of separation and chaos. There will be no separation and no chaos in the new heaven and earth.
- B. No Sorrow: Not only will there be no sorrow, but we see an image of God wiping our tears, showing our intimacy with him.
- C. No Sin: John lists things that are detrimental to human flourishing that will not be in the new creation.
- D. No Temple: The Temple was the space where God dwelled with his creation. But in the New Creation the dwelling place of God is with man.

What is the design of the city? (v.12-15)

The city is a cube (length, width, and height are all the same). This cube points us to the only other cube in scripture, the inner sanctuary of the temple (1 Kings 6:20). This is symbolic of God's presence pervading the entire New Creation. The city is designed to reflect that how believers live in this world matters in the world to come. The city design reflects the righteous deeds of the saints/the bride is clothed in the righteous deeds of the saints.

What is central to the city? (CH 22:1-2)

At the center of the city is the throne of God and the Lamb, with a river that flows from it. God's throne is outdoors and accessible as God dwells with His people. Spanning the river is the tree of life that is always in bloom. The curse of Genesis 3 will be reversed as the Tree of Life represents full life, free from sin.

The final Christian hope is not that we go up to heaven, but that heaven and earth overlap at last. God's presence will come down, like He did with Jesus Christ. In the end, our rest is a relationship with God.

In Chapter 22:17- we are invited to come into His eternal rest.

What is the alternative? Can you design something so comfortable you'd prefer to sit in it forever? Or will you come rest with the glorified king for eternity?

Application Questions:

1. How do you react to the statement: "the new heaven and new earth is designed to reflect how we as believers live matters in the world to come"? Are there areas of your life where you need to repent? Who can help hold you accountable?
2. How does the description of eternal rest with God compare to the ways you currently seek comfort and rest? Is there anything so restful or comfortable on earth that you would prefer to sit in it forever?

3. How do you respond to the statements that (1) "God does not make all new things, but rather He makes all things new" and (2) "The Bible doesn't teach that we go up to heaven when we die but rather heaven and earth intersect and God makes a new heaven and a new heart"?
4. Jesus gives an invitation to "Come". All are welcome to the family of Christ. If you haven't asked Jesus to be Lord over your life, would you consider doing that now? And if you would like prayer, someone at the Chapel would be honored to pray with you and help you take next steps.
5. If you are a follower of Christ, is there someone in your life who needs to hear this good news? Would you pray over this person and ask God to give you an opportunity to meet with this person?