



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

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Friday, 10/22/2021

Scripture: Revelation 21:5-8

TITLE: Who Gets In?

I love to travel. I love flying around the globe seeing new places, and trying new food. But not everyone who wants to travel gets on the plane. The plane, even the gates, are reserved for those who have a ticket. They go through a process to make sure they are the right ones who get to fly and go to their desired destination.

Well, there will be no missed connections when it comes to heaven. There will be no lost luggage. There will be no stowaways either.

So who exactly gets to experience heaven? John has the answer in Revelation 21:5-8.

“Then the one seated on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything new.’ He also said, ‘Write, because these words are faithful and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.’”

As we studied yesterday, after the judgment of the damned, there will be an incredible event where God makes everything new. He will make heaven and earth completely new. He punches the point in verse 5.

Who is it who does this? Who has the authority and power? God. And much like Christ’s words on the cross, He declares, “it is done.” It’s final.

So who gets to experience this new heaven and new earth? Who will experience an eternal future with no more pain or suffering? John tells us in verses 6 that it is those who thirst and drink from the water of life. This water is the water that Jesus spoke of to the Samaritan women.

Then in verse 7, he says these people who experience heaven are conquerors or overcomers. John said in 1 John 5 that an overcomer is a person who puts their faith in Jesus Christ. Yes, there is the inheritance of heaven and rewards in eternity. But the real reward is the familial relationship between God and His people.

And then in verse 8, John says, the unbelievers who are marked by sin will not inherit heaven. It’s a warning not against just sin but against unbelief. Because a Christian is a saint clothed in Christ’s righteousness. Sinners are marked by their character of sin.

You see, there is no such thing as a gay Christian, a liar Christian, a murder Christian, or sorcerer Christian. Christ nails our sins to the cross, and we are changed.

So here is my challenge for you today: live like a citizen of heaven. We all struggle with sin. But we must not be characterized by it. Many people today use the excuse of being a sinner Christian. That's an excuse to be a slave to sin. Christ saved you for so much more.

So ask God for help to live as you really are: a Christian saved by the blood of Christ. When we live as citizens of heaven, people will notice. And that means Jesus wins the day.