



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, 10/27/2021

Scripture: Revelation 22:1-5

TITLE: What Will We Do in Heaven?

Mark Twain once said that he’d take heaven for the climate but hell for the company. I think a lot of people feel that way about eternity. Heaven, though, a nice 75 degrees and gold streets will be awfully boring. Strumming on harps. Floating on clouds. Hell, on the other hand, will be one big party with your best friends. Sure it will be like summer in the Sahara, but you won’t be alone.

When heaven and hell are rightly understood, it’s compelling to pursue heaven and avoid hell.

So what exactly will heaven be like? What will we do? Let’s turn to the final chapter of Revelation. That’s Revelation 22:1-5 (ESV).

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

As we read in Revelation 21, God will make a new heaven and new earth. He will recreate paradise. He will bring down from heaven the new Jerusalem, which is the capital city. Its streets are made of gold. Its gates are made of giant pearls. Its walls are made of precious gems. It’s an unimaginably beautiful city.

And here it says that inside is the river of the water of life. Some commentators think this is symbolic, while others think it’s literal. I don’t think it matters. The point is it is the water of life that reflects the glory of God. It waters the tree of life, which produces many kinds of fruits for eternity. Its leaves provide healing. A better translation would be life-giving or therapeutics. There will be no sickness or injury in eternity.

And then John writes, we will reign with God forever and ever. This fulfills what John wrote in Revelation 3:21. Paul wrote about this in 2 Timothy 2:12. Paul writes, “if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us.”

Friend, we will reign with Christ forever. We will rule over the universe, and all that inhabit it. Yes, we will walk with God daily. Yes, we will worship him continually. We will also explore, reign, and experience the universe for all eternity.

That future is exciting, compelling, and defeats any and all man-made ideas of heaven and hell.

So here's my challenge for you today: endure to prepare for heaven. God doesn't want us coasting through life. He wants us to follow Him. Enduring through the daily trials and tribulations. So let's endure. Our reward awaits us in heaven. So let's endure faithfully.

If you're not a follower of Christ, you can begin today. Believe that Jesus is God. Believe that He died for your sins and rose again. Allow Him to pay for your sins and then begin to taste the water of life only He offers.

When we follow Christ, friend, we will win the day.