



**SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD**

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**Saturday, August 13, 2022**

**Scripture: [Revelation 21:1-4](#)**

**TITLE: Paradise Restored**

What do you look forward to the most? Is it finally seeing a loved one, who's been far removed because of COVID? Is it the return of a loved one from serving overseas? Is it the trip that's been postponed 18 times since the pandemic hit? I really look forward to taking my kids to Disneyworld. I've been saving and planning this trip for several years. But when I remember the truth of Scripture, I actually look forward to Paradise restored. That is what I long for most!

What do I mean by that? Let's turn to Revelation 21, as John says this about the New Heaven and the New Earth:

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” (Revelation 21: 1-4, NLT)*

Over the past couple of days, we've been talking about the return of Christ and the eternal destiny of those who believe, and those who reject Jesus' offer of Salvation. For those who repent of their sin and respond in faith to God's gracious gift, we will see and experience eternity with God in Paradise restored.

John wrote, after the Judgment, there will be this restoration of Creation. There is debate whether it's a reworking of the existing Creation, or a complete wiping out and starting over. Frankly, I don't know if it matters. The point is, what God had intended will be remade. The sin that destroys will be gone. The Earth and the Universe will be as God intended. That's the point.

And then there's this beautiful promise in verses 3-4: *We will be with God forever*. We are His, and He is ours. And John says God will wipe away every tear. There will be no more pain, sorrow, hurt, or disappointment. No more cancer. No more confusion. No more heartbreak. No more disappointment. No more taxes. We will walk with God in perfect peace and unity, just like in The Garden.

Yes, a reunion with a loved one is wonderful. A magical vacation is a goal worth pursuing. But Paradise with God forever is what our hearts should long for. So, here's my challenge for you today: Read this passage several times today, and ask God to help you remain future-focused.

We can get so fixated on the pains and the pleasures of the here and now. Yes, we need to live intentionally, but intentionally with Heaven on our minds.

So spend time reading over this passage, and then allow God, through prayer and submission, refocus you to live with Heaven in mind. Paradise restored: That's a future worth living for.