



Growth Points

Our Glorious Life to Come

March 28, 2010

Revelation 21:1-5, 15-27 and 22:1-6

Devotional Seed:

Do you think of heaven more as emancipation or more as participation?

Deeper Roots:

1. The time between death and resurrection is called the intermediate state. What can we learn about this stopover from 2 Cor 5:8, Luke 16:19-31 and Luke 23:40-43? We see descriptions of being in the presence of God and it being described as paradise. The Lazarus story perhaps suggests a sort of bodily existence, but being pre crucifixion it does not include Christ. It is a more vague existence, however there is a sense of comfort for Lazarus and torment for the rich man.
2. What does 2 Peter 3:13 teach us about our final home? It is described as a new heaven and earth. In context we see the destruction of this earth. It is also the home of righteousness, a place where sin is removed.
3. How is God's presence in heaven described in the Revelation passages? God is dwelling with men 21:3. Perhaps the beautiful gems suggest God's glory. No need for a temple 21:22. God gives light. God's throne is in city. 22:3, no need for sun See his face 22:4
4. What themes of emancipation and participation can you identify in the Revelation passages?
Emancipation: no tears death etc 21:4, nothing impure 21:27, no curse 22:3 Participation: God dwelling 21:3, Holy city prepared 21:2 River of life and fruit 22:1
5. What does Revelation 22:12-17 teach about what it takes to enter heaven? It is open to all who are thirsty, but denied to those who will not repent. When verse 12 says we are rewarded for what we have done, we must see this in terms of faith.

Bearing Fruit:

1. What is it about heaven that you gives you the greatest sense of anticipation?
2. How does the thought of heaven inspire you to live today?

Branching Out:

Plan now to invite someone to the Easter Sunday service. It is not too late to make an invitation.