

Countdown To Forever (Pt. 2)

Living Life with Heaven's Glory in Mind

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."** Revelation 21:1-4*

I. Introduction

*"Heaven is a paradise, a city, a country... and so much more that we can't begin to wrap our finite minds around it. But one thing I do know: Jesus is expecting me, and He's prepared a place for me."
---Greg Laurie*

"Let heaven fill your thoughts instead. Because when you do, everything on earth gets placed in its proper perspective."---Greg Laurie

II. Three Heavenly Facts for Christ-Followers

1. Inheritance is _____ but rewards are _____

*"God saved you by His grace **when you believed**. And you can't take credit for this; **it is a gift** from God. Salvation **is not a reward** for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."
Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)*

*"And behold, I am coming quickly, and **My reward is with Me**, to give to every one **according to his work**." Revelation 22:12 (NKJV)*

*"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely **those who thought most of the next**. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this." – C.S. Lewis*

2. God's Word Promises to _____ for our _____

*"For **God is not unjust**. He **will not forget** how hard you have **worked for Him** and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do." Hebrews 6:10*

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

3. Every believer will appear before the _____ "That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. **God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing**, whether good or bad." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NLT)

III. What Are The Blessings That We Can Expect In Heaven?

1. There will be a total freedom from _____

"Then I (John) heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Yes," says the Spirit, "**that they may rest from their labors**, and their works follow them." Revelation 14:13 (NKJV)

"...the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of **Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, yet you love; in whom, though even now you can't yet see Him, yet in your believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**: Receiving the reward of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." I Peter 1:7-9 (KJV)

2. There will be _____

"...There will be **no more death or mourning or crying or pain**..." Revelation 21:4

3. There will be no more _____

"He will wipe **every tear from their eyes**." Revelation 21:4

4. There will be _____ only life everlasting, "And the Lord said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. **I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts**." Revelation 21:6 (NKJV)

5. There will be no more _____ "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so **great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us**...the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to all who keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them." Psalm 103:11-12; 17-18 (NKJV)

6. There will be no more separation from _____

"Therefore we also, **since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2

"You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy**; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

7. There will be no more _____ to keep

"**So there is a full complete rest still waiting for the people of God**. Christ has already entered there. He is resting from his work, just as God did after the creation. Let us do our best to go into that place of rest, too, being careful not to disobey God as the children of Israel did, thus failing to get in." Hebrews 4:9-11 (TLB)

*“No longer will there be anything accursed (in heaven), 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.” Revelation 22:3-4 (ESV)*

8. There will be _____ (spiritual and natural) *“The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. **The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light...**” Rev. 21:23-24*

*“In heaven, 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.” Revelation 22:5 (ESV)*

9. There will be no more _____ *“In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face to face. **Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly,** just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.” I Corinthians 13:12 (TLB)*

*“What does God know?” people often ask. “Does the Most High even know what’s happening?” Look at these wicked people— enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply. What about me? Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. **But if I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people.** So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! **When I went into your sanctuary, O God, then I finally understood the destiny of the wicked.**”
Psalm 73:11-17*

ANSWER KEY:

II. Three Heavenly Facts for Christ-Followers

1. RECEIVED-----ACHIEVED
2. REWARD US----FAITHFUL SERVICE
3. JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

III. What Are The Blessings That We Can Expect In Heaven?

1. TEMPTATION AND SPIRITUAL BATTLES
2. NO MORE LOSS
3. TEARS, GRIEF, AND SORROW
4. NO MORE DEATH
5. CRIPPLING REGRETS
6. GOD AND (SAVED) LOVED ONES
7. DEMANDING SCHEDULES
8. NO MORE DARKNESS
9. FRUSTRATIONS AND DISILLUSIONMENT

