

A Christian Relaxation

(Rv 21:4)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Hope each of you had a wonderful week this last week.
2. Series of lessons on "A Christian..." we have looked at...
 - a. A Christian Resurrection
 - b. A Christian Resolution
 - c. A Christian Restitution
3. This morning we finish up this series of lessons on "A Christian Relaxation"
 - a. The righteous Christian has two forms of relaxation...
 - i. Being part of the church.
 - ii. Being part of heaven (eventually).
4. Our text for this morning is going to be largely based on Rv 21.
 - a. Please turn your Bibles there this morning please.
5. Many through the years have looked at **Rv 21** as talking about heaven.
 - a. We hear all the time...
 - i. Heaven's pearly gates.
 - ii. Heaven's streets of gold.
 1. **Rv 21:21**
 - b. However notice what the angel calls the holy city, new Jerusalem.
 - i. **Rv 21:2-3** "Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."
 - ii. **Rv 21:9-10** "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "**Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.**" 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and **showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God"
 - c. The angel calls the "New Jerusalem" the bride of Christ/the Lamb's wife.
 - i. There is only one thing called the bride of Christ that I know of...the church.
 1. **Ep 5:23** "For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."
 2. **Ep 5:32** "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."
6. With that in mind let us look at **Rv 21** in light of the church first.

I. A Christian Relaxation (The Church)

- A. Because there are no tears in the church (**Rv 21:4**)
 1. This of course is talking about the aftermath of Roman persecution.
 - i. With Roman persecution destroyed there would be peace in the church, keep in mind (II Ti 3:12).

2. However if we are in Christ we should be "tearless."
 - i. We have a loving Father.
 - a. **Jn 3:16**
 - ii. We have a Savior.
 - a. **Ac 20:28**
 - iii. We have a guide to righteous living.
 - a. **II Ti 3:16-17; II Pt 1:3**
 - iv. Thus we have an opportunity of heaven.
 - a. **Ph 2:12**
- B. Because Christ is the churches sustainer (**Rv 21:23**)
 1. **Mt 11:28-30** "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.** 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
 2. How is it that the yoke is easy?
 - i. Christ has done the hard part.
 - a. He emptied Himself to become our Brother.
 1. **Ph 2:11** "but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."
 2. **He 2:11** "For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren"
 - b. He submitted to the cross of shame to become our Savior.
 1. **Lk 22:42** "...Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."
 2. **I Jn 4:14** "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."
 3. All we have to do is listen and obey.
 - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments."
 - ii. **Jn 12:48-50** "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

- C. Because it is open for everyone to enter (**Rv 21:25**)
 - 1. We can relax and know that God is not a respecter of persons and thus anyone that desires to be obedient to God can be adopted into the family.
 - i. **Ti 2:11-14** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."
 - 2. What a comforting thought to know that all our family can become Christians if they follow God rather than man.
 - i. **Mt 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
 - 3. What a exciting to thought to know we can help in that process of bring people to Christ. After all that is our purpose here on earth.
 - i. **Rv 21:26** "And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it."
- D. Because we can get to heaven being a part of the church (**Rv 21:27; 2:10**)
 - 1. What a relief to know that we are in control of whether or not we go to heaven.
 - i. If we stay faithful to God (**I Jn 1:7**), we have a crown awaiting us.
 - 2. Our salvation is not reliant on other men or women.
 - i. It isn't reliant on preachers being right.
 - ii. It isn't reliant on others being right.
 - iii. Our salvation is reliant on us doing right.
 - a. **Mt 6:20** "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

II. A Christian Relaxation (Heaven)

- A. We are not like those without hope of eternity.
 - 1. **I Th 4:13-14** "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who **have no hope**. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."
- B. We are those that have a hope, based on a promise, of eternity.
 - 1. **Jn 14:2-3** "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (**ESV**)
- C. Most mentioned before concerning the church applies to heaven as well.
 - 1. There will be no sin and thus no tears and constant worship of the Almighty.

CONCLUSION

1. With all the talk of rest in the church and heaven I'm reminded of a quote from Charles Dickens from the Tale of Two Cities. "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known." (<http://tinyurl.com/48kefzy>)
 - a. Brothers and sisters our rest in Christ is far better than any rest outside of Him.
2. Invitation