

The World to Come

February 21, 2019

Ephesians 1:1-3 ESV

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

4 even as he chose (*eklegomai - to pick out, choose, select*) us in him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him. [In love]

5 [In love] he predestined (*proorizō - predestinate, decide beforehand, predetermine, appoint beforehand*) us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

- **God's Sovereignty** (*3 components*)
 - **Man's Free-Will** (*the exercise and finality of voluntary choice*)
 - **God's Foreknowledge** (*knowing before*)
 - **God's Predestination** (*pre-design, determine in advance, eternal strategy in temporal design*)

Ephesians 1:7-10 ESV

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Revelation 21:1-5 ESV

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2 And I 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 the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

- **All that we are and do as the Church here on earth is preparation for the eternal climax in heaven.**
 - **Preparing ourselves as His Bride**
 - **Compelling all - making disciples**

- **Everytime we assemble as the Church here on earth, we are building what will be in heaven for all eternity.**

Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

19 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

20 *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,*

21 *in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.*

22 *In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

- **While on earth, the closest we can be to heaven is to assemble together in worship of Him.**

Hebrews 11:8-10 ESV

8 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

9 *By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.*

10 *For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*

- **All that we learn and do by faith here on earth is preparing us for our heavenly home and destiny.**
- **If your life is headed in any other direction other than the City built by God, the New Jerusalem, you're going the wrong way.**

Matthew 6:19-21 ESV

19 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,*

20 *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- **Our heart is not to be with this earth life, but in heaven.**
- **One of the greatest perversions to Christian doctrine is the inflated emphasis on earthly success and pleasure and the increasing neglect of our heavenly inheritance.**
- **We are preaching and listening to the wrong Gospel if our preaching does not make little of earth and much of heaven.**

Colossians 3:1-2 ESV

1 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

2 *Set your minds (phroneō - direct one's mind, to feel, cherish - KJV affections) on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

John 6:27 ESV

27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."

- **We have been programmed to live for today on earth and have forgotten how to live for our future inheritance in heaven.**

Romans 8:19-23 ESV

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

- We long for Jesus' return...
 - To see and know Him face to face
 - To be delivered from the corruption and destruction of sin
- Paganism worships the present world - Christianity seeks the world to come.

Hebrews 11:13-16 ESV

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

- **Lot's wife loves all the company she can get.**

2 Peter 3:10-13 ESV

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- **The Church has lost the call to live holy lives in view of and preparation for the world to come.**

Hebrews 2:1-9 ESV

1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

6 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?"

7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,

8 putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 12:18-29 ESV

18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest
19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."

21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken--that is, things that have been made--in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

29 for our God is a consuming fire.

- **We have been called to come out and be separate from the very world we embrace for our security and gratification.**