

LIVING ETERNALLY IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Introduction

Text: **Rev. 22:4,5**.

Heaven is beyond our greatest dreams. God is there in all His glory — *we shall see His face*.

LONGING FOR A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Right now, our character leaves much to be desired — our greatest need is for spiritual growth! Cf. **Eph. 4:15**.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, *are being transformed* into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (**2 Cor. 3:18**).

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us *a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*” (**2 Cor. 4:16,17**).

We ought not to be satisfied with the relationship with God we have right now! Cf. **2 Cor. 5:1,2; Phil. 1:21-23**.

We should long for the *perfect relationship with God* we'll enjoy in heaven — that's why we want to go there.

VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH

Having separated ourselves from our Creator, *we stand amazed at the very thought of reconciliation*: those who accept His salvation obediently and faithfully will enjoy the full, direct presence of God in eternity.

“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (**Hb. 5:9**).

Restoration of man's perfect relationship with God is the highest hope to which a human heart can aspire.

“I shall not live ‘till I see God; and when I have seen Him, I shall never die” (John Donne).

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me *the crown of righteousness*, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (**2 Tim. 4:7,8**).

In Christ, we can “fight the good fight” with *courage* and *confidence*. Cf. **Jn. 10:28,29; Rom. 13:11**.

In the end, Satan will have been crushed, and the “crown of life” (**Rev. 2:10**) will be ours, finally and forevermore.

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (**1 Thess. 4:17**). Cf. **Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Jn. 3:2**.

Conclusion

In Christ, we must do our daily work, but we must work with *a longing for heaven* in our hearts - **1 Pt. 1:3-9**.

“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and *rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (**1 Pt. 1:13**). Cf. **Tit. 2:13; 2 Pt. 3:12**.

Each day, let's *renew our commitment* of faithfulness to God . . . *passionately longing* for the day when we'll see His face.