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Teaching Notes

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Setting our Hearts on Heaven

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth Revelation 21:1

Heavenly-mindedness Commanded!!:

Colossians 3:1-2 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Is heavenly-mindedness a detriment to productive earthly living?

American Jurist **Oliver Wendell Holmes**: Some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good.

However, C.S. Lewis said, “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth, and you will get neither.” (*The Joyful Christian*, p.138).

Tantalizing Foretastes:

Richard Robarts, minister of God, early 19th century... died of consumption at age 36

[He writes in his journal] “Frequently, all around me thought me about to expire. My cough was so dreadful, so were the pains I felt in my chest and side; and above all the languor which oppressed me for a while seemed almost overwhelming. But while I was thus sinking I felt more of the consolations and supports of religion than I ever had experienced before. O, with what strong and assured confidence was I enabled to look upon my Redeemer, and how gladly would I have resigned my soul into his hands! What glorious manifestations of

His love and mercy did He make to my soul, and how did I rejoice to believe that in a few days more I should be with Him in glory eternal! For the sake of my dear wife and friends, I was willing to live, and saw it my duty to use all proper means to promote my recovery... but for my own sake I had a desire to be with Christ. Thus I lay in sweet suspense, as it were, between earth and heaven, and indeed, so I have remained in general ever since."

Later on, a friend said to him: "I should be glad to enjoy your happiness." *Richard Roberts could not speak at this stage of his illness, but he wrote this on a slate:* "Believe constantly on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you may be much happier than you are. Had I been more faithful in this respect I should have enjoyed more consolation and done more for the glory of God."

[the account continues] "In the course of this day he experienced an ecstasy of heavenly joy. His eyes were bathed in tears, and he uttered words of praise, consolation and triumph; it appeared as if he was transported into Paradise. It was evident that he experienced a foretaste of heaven." He said, "Oh, I am happy in my God, in his love. I am going to possess Him forever. I shall enter into that city whose streets are of fine gold, yes, the New Jerusalem from above, the City of the Living God."

Happiness... everyone seeks it but most of the world does not know how to find it

Imagine the happiness of Richard Roberts.... Nothing earthly could touch Him!!

If you could walk the streets of the New Jerusalem this afternoon for one hour, then returned to earth, would not earthly concerns seem ridiculous? Would you care who won the National Championship? Or who got the promotion at your company? Or who got the credit for something done at church?

Is it possible to live mentally in heaven while walking vigorously on earth? Is that happiness possible???

I. Heavenly Mindset (vs. 1-4)

Colossians 3:1-4 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

A. Present Duty: Seek and Think Heaven

1. Two key verbs: SEEK and THINK

2. Our rich inheritance: the New Heaven and the New Earth

- a. Fill your mind with biblical data... what kind of existence will we have?
- b. Feed your faith and your hope on the promises of God

Hebrews 11:13-16 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country-- a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

- c. Christ openly commanded this and appealed to it

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- d. Revelation was given to help us do this

B. Our Future: Christ Will Appear, and We With Him in Glory

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1. Our future is a glorious unveiling of Christ in His Second Coming glory
2. AND our glorification in Him

Revelation 19:11-16 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.... ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

II. Heaven Revealed

A. Heaven Misunderstood

Randy Alcorn wrote a book called Heaven specifically to rectify the gross neglect of good teaching on heaven that plagues the church today

He relates a conversation he had with a pastor who confessed to him: “Whenever I think about Heaven, it makes me depressed. I’d rather just cease to exist when I die?”

Alcorn asked “Why?”

The pastor answered: “I can’t stand the thought of that endless tedium. To float around in the clouds with nothing to do but strum a harp...it’s all so terribly boring. Heaven doesn’t sound much better than Hell. I’d rather be annihilated than spend eternity in a place like that.”

Actually, many Christians misunderstand heaven

Many people think it will be this endless sing-along where we sing one great hymn after another, forever and ever and ever and ever... strumming a harp, floating like a wisp of air on a puffy white cloud

Alcorn relates Mark Twain’s poor views of heaven, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. “The Christian spinster Miss Watson takes a dim view of Huck’s fun-loving spirit. According to Huck, “She went on and told me all about the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was go around all day long with a harp and sing forever and ever. So I didn’t think much of it...I asked her if she reckoned Tom Sawyer would go there, and she said ‘Not by a considerable sight.’ I was glad about that, because I wanted him and me to be together.”

1. Too many people have a gross misunderstanding of our heavenly future
 - a. Many fine bible teachers have neglected careful teaching on heaven
 - i) John Calvin never wrote a commentary on Revelation, which has the clearest views of heaven
 - ii) Theologian Reinhold Neibuhr wrote an in-depth two-volume study entitled *The Nature and Destiny of Man*, and amazingly had nothing to say about heaven
 - iii) William Shedd’s three-volume *Systematic Theology* has 87 pages on eternal punishment, but only two pages on heaven
 - iv) In his 900 page theological work, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones devoted less than two pages to the eternal state and the New Earth
 - v) Louis Berkhof’s classic *Systematic Theology* devotes 38 pages to creation, 40 pages to baptism and communion, 15 pages to the “intermediate state” (what happens to people between death and resurrection) but only two pages to Hell and one page to Heaven
 - b. Key question: does the Bible really have so little to say about Heaven?
ANSWER IS NO!!!!

B. A Verse Taken Out of Context

1. So many people shut down inquiry on details about heaven based on one verse:

1 Corinthians 2:9 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--

2. BUT it is taken out of context and the quote stops too soon

3. Context: the limitation of human wisdom for discerning the plans of God

a. Human senses cannot perceive heaven

b. Human wisdom cannot predict heaven

4. Next verse reveals the whole concept

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- ¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

5. Not everything has been revealed... but many things have

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever

6. And we must study what God HAS revealed about heaven

C. What God Wants Us to Know About the New Heavens and New Earth

So what will it be like?

1. There will be a New Heaven and New Earth, the home of righteousness

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Revelation 21:1 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.

a. The New Heaven will be God's dwelling place, more beautiful even than the present star-studded night sky

b. The New Earth will be radiant, luscious, remade, free forever from bondage to decay... a world more pristine than Eden, more exciting to explore than Lewis and Clark's exploration of the Pacific Northwest

c. Previous world completely destroyed/removed to make way for this

2 Peter 3:10 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

Hebrews 1:10-12 *He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."*

d. Perfect world will have perfect beauty and natural, physical features

Revelation 22:1-3 *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse.*

Romans 8:19-23 *The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

There is a clear parallel in these verses between the resurrected bodies of the elect and the resurrected earth in which those new bodies will live

“No longer any curse” means an earth as God originally intended... ready to yield its bounties freely to men and women who will work it

e. New features too

Revelation 21:1 *there was no longer any sea.*

Revelation 21:23 *The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.*

Revelation 22:5 *There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light.*

2. We will see God and Christ face to face!!

Job 19:26-27 *And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes-- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

1 Corinthians 13:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Revelation 21:3 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.

Revelation 22:3-4 The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

- a. The very thing denied to Moses on the Mountain

Exodus 33:20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

- b. The very thing it is said that no man could ever do
- c. We will do constantly
- d. And, like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we will see and talk with the risen Lord... see the nail marks in his hands, sit at table with him, see his face, hear his voice, ask him anything we want, learn from him forever

3. In this sense, then, God Himself is our greatest reward

Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Psalms 73:25-26 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Lamentations 3:24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Ephesians 1:13-14 you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance

Our present, daily experience of fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit is a deposit, a portion of our full inheritance. Thus God Himself must be our inheritance!!

4. It will be a place of ceaseless worship

Revelation 4:8-11 *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." ⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: ¹¹ "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

5. There will be a glorious city, the New Jerusalem, as a place of union between heaven and earth

Revelation 21:2 *I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

- a. It will be ravishingly beautiful... the most beautiful city in history, larger, more luminescent, more serene and powerful

Revelation 21:11 *It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*

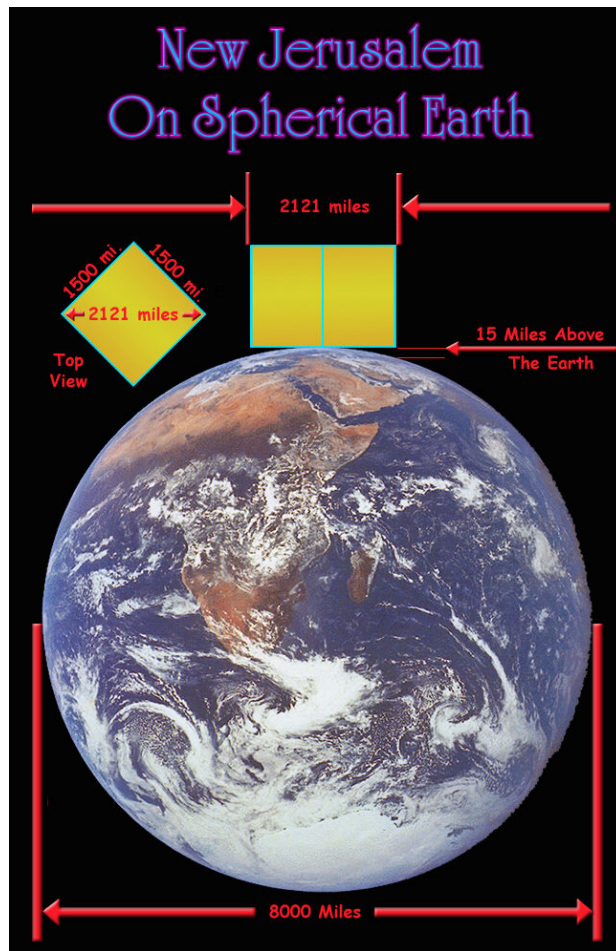
- b. God will dwell there, and its gates will be constantly open so the wealth of the nations can stream in

Revelation 21:25-26 *On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.*

- c. There will be nothing impure or unclean there... it will be perfectly pure forever

- d. It will be immense and imposing

Revelation 21:16-17 *The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using.*





12,000 stadia = 1400 miles... HUGE;
1400 miles UP????? A big mystery

6. We sit at table with Him in the Kingdom, at a banqueting table so lavish it cannot be described... and many will come from the east and the west and take their places at that table

Matthew 8:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and

Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Amazingly Christ Himself will be a tablewaiter in heaven:

Luke 12:37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

7. We will be perfect in soul and in body...

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

- a. Already covered the resurrection body earlier... just to remind you:

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

- b. Perfect in soul as well

Hebrews 12:23 the spirits of righteous men made perfect

- c. no internal struggle with sin, no bodily ailments, NO DEATH, MOURNING, CRYING or PAIN

Revelation 21:4 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."

- i) Meditate on each one of those fully
- ii) Take pain, for example: no physical pain... no stubbed toes, no broken bones, no cancer or chemotherapy, no danger even!
- iii) No psychological pain: no disappointment, rejection, loneliness, regret, sadness, jealousy, discontent, boredom, etc.

8. Perfect fellowship with one another

1 John 1:3-4 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

Hebrews 12:22-23 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

9. Fruitful work to do

Revelation 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

This is the key verse for me on the blessed work we will do in heaven; the word “serve” frequently means “worship”, but it is also tied to labor, to productive activity. The mention of the “curse” refers directly to the curse on Adam’s working of the earth

The extremely blessed pattern of work we will do will produce a stream of glory and splendor which will constantly stream into the New Jerusalem:

Revelation 21:24-26 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

Isaiah 66:12-13 For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. ¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

10. Hierarchy of authority/responsibility, but no tyranny and no jealousy

Revelation 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

James and John asked to sit at Jesus' right and left hand in the Kingdom of Heaven; these were positions of power and responsibility. Jesus did not deny that such places exist... He actually affirmed it! But he said the way of obtaining those positions was by humble, self-sacrificial servanthood on earth.

Mark 10:40 to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

Mark 10:42-44 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

Also, the Parable of the Minas implies positions of authority and responsibility tied to faithfulness here on earth:

Luke 19:12-19 He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' ¹⁴ "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' ¹⁵ "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. ¹⁶ "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' ¹⁷ "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' ¹⁸ "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' ¹⁹ "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'

The more we suffer and are faithful here on earth, the greater our reward in heaven. Thus the suffering poor on earth have a high position waiting in heaven:

James 1:9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.

Luke 16:25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

11. Eternal private ownership, but no selfishness or covetousness

Luke 16:11-12 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Fascinating verse! It implies future private ownership... and that for eternity!!

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Genesis 13:14-15 *The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.*

Hebrews 11:13-14 *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.*

12. Summary:

- It will be a place of infinite joy and pleasure
- We will be perfectly conformed to Christ in every way: physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, volitionally
- It contains both a city and a country: the "New Jerusalem" and the "New Earth"
- The New Jerusalem will be immense, a place of perfect union between heaven and earth, a place under no threat but whose gates stand open constantly for the rich blessing of the nations to be brought within her walls
- The future world will be completely free of all evil (death, mourning, crying, pain, sin, temptation, Satan, devils, evil people, worldly allurements, etc.)
- It will be a place of infinite discovery, with Christ Himself being the chief object of study
- The New Earth itself will be physical, a world to be explored, developed and cared for
- It will be ravishingly beautiful
- It will be eternal
- There will be some kind of feasting there, and we will eat food as Christ did in His resurrection body
- There will be work, and positions of responsibility and authority, though no jealousy of those over us or domineering of those under us
- We will have eternal possessions on the New Earth, our inheritance
- We will have physical bodies, perfect and glorious

- We will enjoy perfect fellowship with people from every nation and language
- We will enjoy perfect fellowship with people from every era of Redemptive History
- We will be abundantly and specifically rewarded for all acts of faith-filled service to Christ and to His people, and we will never lose these rewards but will enjoy them forever

III. The Benefits of Heavenly-Mindedness

A. Heavenly-Mindedness Gives Power to Resist Temptation

1. Paul says asceticism (harsh treatment of the body) lacks any value in restraining sensual indulgence
2. BUT setting your heart on things above has GREAT POWER in resisting temptation
3. Earthly-minded people struggle mightily with earthly lusts; those who seem to live in the heavenlies are able to see each temptation in the light of eternity...
 - a. the lures of illicit sex seem repulsive to one whose heart is set on heaven
 - b. The attraction of the corner office and the bloated six-figure salary (at the cost of sixty-hour work-weeks and multiple divorces) is immeasurably diminished

B. Heavenly-Mindedness Gives Energy to Advance the Kingdom

1. As C.S. Lewis said, it was the heavenly-minded people that seemed to have unceasing energy to advance the Kingdom of Christ
2. They lived moment-by-moment for their eternal happiness in heaven and for the pleasure of their Lord
3. They yearned to see Christ glorified on earth as they vividly imagine Him to be glorified in heaven
4. Their prayer lives and Bible meditations were effective sources of daily renewal for them

C. Heavenly-Mindedness Keeps Perspective in Trials and Suffering

1. The sufferings of cancer or of some other dread disease diminish when we consider that the worst that can happen is being in heaven with Christ

2. The sufferings of those persecuted for the faith dwindle: as one house church pastor said to a terrifying security policeman threatening him with a gun: “You can’t threaten me with heaven!!”
3. The sufferings of the body are all seen to be temporary in light of eternity

D. Heavenly-Mindedness Enables Us to Love Others Better

1. We shall see each other as future partners in a heavenly life
2. We shall yearn to help each other along the way to heaven, rather than involve ourselves in petty power struggles or backbiting or gossip or conflicts
3. We shall be much more willing to sacrifice our time, energy and money to benefit other people if we realize that all those things will be rewarded in heaven
4. We shall be freed from jealousy of the spiritual successes of others: if God blesses someone else’s ministry more than ours, we are enabled to rejoice from the heavenly perspective

E. Heavenly-Mindedness Freed Us from Fear of Man

1. Human tyrants shrink into nothingness in light of the future heavenly life
2. The greatness of God, the glory of Christ, the infinite mystery and power of the Holy Spirit make human opponents seem as nothing
3. We shall lose our fear of man in evangelism and be very bold in witnessing
4. We shall lose our fear of missions work and be willing to go wherever God calls us

F. Heavenly-Mindedness Frees Us from Discouragement

1. Satan sells the poisonous purple kool-aid of discouragement at every street corner
2. He is especially zealous to do so to those who are most effective for the Kingdom
3. BUT a heavenly mindset frees us from discouragement: we are going to a perfect world which will be eternally lit by the Glory of Christ
4. Everything we do to serve Christ will result in eternal blessing, and it is literally impossible for us to fail
5. Where then is discouragement?? It is CRUSHED FOREVER!!

G. Heavenly-Mindedness Enables Us to Be Excellent Counselors

1. We can point other people to the glory that will be revealed to us and in us
2. We can lift their spirits when they are discouraged
3. We can help them defeat temptation and sin
4. We can help them be eternally fruitful... all of this by saturating their minds with HEAVEN

H. Heavenly-Mindedness Makes Us Generous With Earthly Resources

1. We need not hold on to money, or be stingy with our material possessions
2. We can look on every moment of our day as preparation for our future heavenly life
3. We can spread a banquet for the poor and needy, and not expect to be repaid in this life... for we expect the reward at the resurrection of the righteous
4. We need not be clingy, materialistic, stingy, selfish... heaven frees us from all that

I. Heavenly-Mindedness Sweetens Public and Private Worship

1. Many of the best hymns have been enriched my meditations on heaven
2. Psalms is the greatest source of worship songs... but Revelation is second
3. We should talk about heaven, pray about heaven, sing about heaven... in private worship, longing to get there... in public worship, weeping for its beauty

J. Heavenly-Mindedness Frees Us from Fear of Aging and Death

Spurgeon: “Every day Christ is overcoming death, for He gives His Spirit to His saints, and having that Spirit within them they confront death with songs... they face death with a calm countenance, and they fall asleep in peace. ‘I will not fear thee death—why should I? You look like a dragon, but your sting is gone.’ “For these saints, to die has been so different a thing from what they expected it to be, so lightsome, so joyous; they have been so unloaded of all care, have felt so relieved instead of burdened, that they have wondered whether this could be the monster they had been afraid of all their days. They find it a pin’s prick, when they feared it would be a sword thrust; it is the shutting of the eye on earth, and the opening of it in heaven...”

Thomas Goodwin: “Ah! Is this dying? How have I dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend!”

William Preston: “Blessed be God! Though I shall change my place, I shall not change my company!”

Charles Wesley: “I shall be satisfied with thy likeness... satisfied, satisfied!!”

Adoniram Judson: “I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world; yet when Christ calls me home, I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school.”

John Pawson: “I know I am dying, but my death-bed is a bed of roses. Heaven has already begun.”

William Everett: “Glory... Glory...Glory...” for the last 25 minutes of his life, until he was gone.

IV. Application (vs. 5-9)

- A. Be Certain That it's Heaven and Not Hell in your Future
- B. Set Your Hearts on Things Above in Daily Quiet Time
- C. Study the New Heaven and New Earth Biblically
- D. Learn to Conquer Sin by Heavenly-Mindedness
- E. Enrich Your Conversation with References to Heaven
- F. Use the Allure of Heaven to Witness to Lost People