

3. Focus my energy on what will last.

So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

1 Corinthians 4:5

"There is now no condemnation to those who belong Christ Jesus."

Romans 8:1

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

2 Corinthians 5:10

- **Sin and indifference** in this life rob us of our present desire for serving God faithfully. (That in turn means a loss of rewards, because we will not have used our time to His glory.)

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

Ephesians 5:15,16

- **Sin and indifference** result in a loss of power in our lives because sin grieves the Holy Spirit. (The power to live obedient thoughtful lives which in turn leads to rewards)
- **Sin and indifference** cause us to pass up opportunities for service. (Which we would otherwise perform and be rewarded for.)

I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:14

"Set your mind on things which are above, for when Christ, in whom our life is hid appears, then we will be like him, and we will appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:2-4

Sierra Community Church July 5th, 2015- Dan Wilvers Part 2



How Does The Hope Of Heaven Make For A Better Life Here?

Revelation 21:21–22:5

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. ²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The 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. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22: ¹Then 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 ²down 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. ³No 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. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There 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. And they will reign for ever and ever.

I. Heaven Gives Us A Reason For Earthly Good.

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. vs. 2

The Rise of Christianity -Rodney Stark

“Why did Christianity succeed in the Roman Empire?”

How did Christianity go from being about 6 to 8 percent of the Empire to almost 50 percent?

“If you aim at heaven you get earth thrown in” says C.S. Lewis.

II. Heaven Gives Us Strength For Earthly Good

“The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.”
vs.21

1720s, Jonathan Edwards preached a whole sermon on this verse, and especially on the word *like*.

The Bible is asking us to imagine what heaven is like.

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

III. If I'm going to heaven how I should be living my life.

1. Don't be discouraged by trouble.

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing every day. 17 These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever! 18 So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Troubles will:

- **Not last**
- **Be used for good by God in your life** (Rom. 8:28)
- **Lead to eternal rewards**

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Matthew 6:20

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.
Colossians 3:2

2. Don't be distracted by temptations.

“We're only visitors here on earth. Since your real home is in heaven, keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they're not for you, they fight against your very souls.” 1 Peter 2:11 (LB)

“If they had wanted to, they could have gone back to the good things of this world. But they didn't want to. They were living for heaven. And now God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has made a heavenly city for them.” Hebrews 11:15-16 (LB)