“All who are thirsty…” – Heaven (Rev. 21:5-6)

**Introduction:** How many of you would like to have a new home or have your present home remodeled? For nine seasons, Ty Pennington and his team of designers and builders re-built or remodeled homes for families they deemed deserving. The show was called “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.”

The process began with families applying for help through a video explanation of their situation and why the producers should choose them. Usually, there was some heartbreak in the family – a fireman who got disabled on the job, a child who needed special medical treatment, a family who had taken in five foster children. When the design team showed up at the chosen family’s door, the family knew two things were going to happen. They were heading on vacation. When they got back, their house was going to be completely different.

As soon as the family was gone, the team would get started. They only had seven days to make this happen. Early episodes of the show focused on remodeling. They soon realized it was easier, quicker, and more cost efficient to demolish the existing structure and start from scratch. They gathered friends and relatives of the family to help with the project. Corporate sponsors would donate materials and labor. Some of these houses had to be specially designed to accommodate medical needs, the size of the family, and their personal tastes. It was a huge task in a short timeframe. Invariably, the team would anxiously work a 24-hour shift on the day before the family was scheduled to return. They wanted to have everything just right for the family’s new home.

On the day of the reveal, all those who had selflessly worked on the house gathered outside to welcome the family to their new home. They wanted to see the reaction. As soon as the crowd yelled, “Move that bus!” the family could see what loving hands had prepared for them.

Their reaction was always the same. Tears flowed down their face, and “Oh, my God!” repeatedly rolled off their tongues. They knew the deficient house they left; they were now in the magnificent house others had constructed for them. It was perfect. It had all the personal touches as if the team who had briefly met them a week ago had known them all their lives. They were *so* happy and *so* thankful.

Wouldn’t that be nice if it happened to you?

You don’t need Ty Pennington or the ABC producers to design a new home for you. Jesus is building your new home right now. The Bible refers to your eternal home in multiple ways – the Kingdom of God, Heaven, the New Jerusalem, and the New Earth. We’re going to use these terms interchangeably. You don’t need to worry about the name. All you need to know is it’s home. We don’t have to wait for a reveal. Jesus already gave John, the Apostle a preview of what Jesus is preparing for us.

1. A new environment – *“new heaven and new earth”* (Rev. 21:1)

At the conclusion of the Millennial Reign of Christ, Jesus will do what He refused to do at its beginning. He will miraculously and immediately create a new environment. Jesus began His thousand year reign by cleaning up the mess the previous rulers created. It took seven months for the de-contamination crews to find and bury all the bodies. This will be different.

*“Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”* (2 Peter 3:11-13)

In a moment, Jesus will make everything new.

That word “new” can be disconcerting. Change can be good, but too much change requires more adjustment than some can handle. How “new” is this existence going to be? Will we still have gravity? Will we still eat, and run, and dream?

It helps to understand the word John used for “new” does not mean totally new. It’s new in the sense of a new version.

You have a 2003 Honda Accord. You’ve gotten used to it. It has served you well. But it’s worn out now with 220,000 miles on it. It’s time for a new car. It’s *past time* for a new car. So you go out and purchase a 2018 Honda Accord. It’s familiar, but it’s different. Its paint doesn’t have any chips in it, it has the new car smell, and though you recognize many of the features common to Honda Accords, there are some new ones too. They will take some getting used to, but the prospect excites you.

In the same way, you will recognize much of what characterizes this new world. It will be familiar enough for you to call it home immediately. But this one will be glorious! When you see it, your only possible reaction will be to fall in worship of the One Who provided it for you.

1. Free from the effects of sin – *“no longer be any curse”* (Rev. 22:3)

This new world and the life you live in it will be new to you, but it will not be new to its Designer. The new earth will be like the world He originally created and shaped. Your life will be the life He planned for you from the beginning.

Soon after His first work of creation, humans, His greatest creation, brought sin and God’s curse on God’s world. For Adam, the curse meant impediments and the frustration they cause would plague him all his days. The result for Eve and all her offspring was suffering. God forced the serpent to endure humiliation and a daily intake of dust that would forever alter the enjoyment of his diet. And they would all eventually die.

*Everything* in this universe is affected by the curse. Do you like strawberries? You’ve never experienced a strawberry that tasted the way God intended strawberries to taste. The food you eat, the air you breathe, the skin you touch, the aroma you smell, the melodies you hear will all be positively affected by the curse’s removal. You have never known life without the curse. Imagine what its removal will mean! It’s challenging.

A person born blind doesn’t know anything but blindness. It is impossible for them to conceive of colors or beauty. For all your life, you have been blind. You didn’t know it. You managed your limitations, convincing yourself that what you experienced was truly how things were. Imagine your eyesight without the constraints of the curse. You thought 20/20 vision was good. Just wait until you can see a sunrise the way God sees it – the way He intended you to see it!

There will be no more curse because sin, the cause of the curse is gone.

1. Free from the actions of sinners – *“outside are the immoral persons”* (Rev. 22:8, 15)

You’re a sinner. So is the person next to you. I’m one too. None of us has ever lived in a world void of sin. Only three humans ever have – Adam, Eve, and Jesus. Satan lured Adam and Eve to leave behind what they had in favor of what he offered. They chose to sin, but they did not fully know the consequences of their choice. God ejected them from the Garden, but it was not the Garden they most missed. It was the absence of sin in their world and in themselves they most wanted to retrieve. They created their agony through their own choices. So do we.

Jesus made a choice too. He chose to stay away from sin (Heb. 4:15) and surround Himself with sinners (Matt. 9:10-11). Jesus, who knew no sin chose to live among sinners so that He could pay a debt He did not owe and fix a problem He did not create (2 Cor. 5:21). The world God creates will be stunning. The people who inhabit it will be exquisite. Because of His sacrifice, we will one day be free of sin even as He is now (1 John 3:2-3). We will be sinless! No, we will be more. We will be righteous.

Whenever you move, there are usually a few parts of the former existence you miss. Will you miss being lied to? Will you ladies miss the lustful gawking of immature men void of self-control? Will any of you miss the overwhelming guilt and the bloodshot, teary eyes as you come back to God the hundredth time for the same crime? I know I won’t. For the first time, all of us will be clean, and we will never again be dirty.

1. A new home – *“new Jerusalem”* (Rev. 21:2)

New people need a new home. Jesus told His disciples He was leaving. While He was gone, He promised to be working on a new home for them and us. The place He’s been working on is the New Jerusalem. He will be taking us there soon.

1. It will be stunning – *“the glory of God”* (Rev. 21:11)

You may have lived in some places you could not justly describe as “glorious.” They were cramped, outdated, roach-infested, and decrepit. The thought of having guests over for dinner caused uncontrollable spasms. The building served to shelter you from the elements, but you were hesitant and embarrassed to claim it as your home. The days of your humiliation are over.

Envision if you can the first time you see it. You’ve visited some homes that took your breath away and put you in a state of awe. You’ll need an AED to restart your heart after seeing this one especially when Jesus tells you it’s yours. John was privileged with a glimpse of our new home. He did his best to describe it.

John gives a large portion of his description to enumerate the materials Jesus used to build the city. Since Jesus is a master builder, He uses only the best, most beautiful, most durable materials. There is no wood here, only gold and precious stones.

John records there will be no Temple here, but the materials used to build the foundation, walls, and streets are the same materials used for worship in the Temple. Wealth and worship are intrinsically connected. Jesus said where our treasure was, there our hearts would also be (Matt. 6:21). He also said it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter Heaven (Matt. 19:24). The items we coveted as a symbol of wealth and power on earth will be the surface we walk on in Heaven.

All of these surfaces are reflective. They don’t produce light, but light bounces off of them. They won’t be reflecting the light of the sun or moon; they will be reflecting the glory of God (Rev. 21:23). The same God who commanded light to shine out of darkness (Gen. 1:3) *before* He created the sun and moon (Gen. 1:16), will illumine every portion of this city. God is light, and there is no darkness in Him (1 John 1:5). The various stones and their respective colors will reflect light in a spectrum of colors. Heaven will be stunning in its beauty.

1. It will be spacious – *“1500 miles; its length and width and height are equal”* (Rev. 22:16)

The measurements of the city add to its impressiveness. It will be 1500 miles wide and deep. The city will have a footprint of over 2 million square miles. If it rested on our current earth, it would stretch almost from Atlanta, Georgia to Phoenix, Arizona going west, and from Phoenix to Calgary, Canada going north.

It will be 1500 miles tall. The top layers will be in the stratosphere. You normally wouldn’t be able to survive without a spacesuit there. If the International Space Station still existed at the time, most of the New Jerusalem citizens would be looking down on it. Those satellites possessing a low earth orbit would go whizzing by your window.[[1]](#endnote-1)

With the dimensions John gives, we can calculate that this city will have almost 3.4 billion cubic internal miles of living area! There have been times in your life when you longed for some solitude – a place you could go just to be alone where no one would bother you. With the size of the New Jerusalem, 3.4 billion people could have one cubic mile each! That doesn’t even include the acreage on the New Earth.

It’s not hard to see why you might want some space. People can be so hateful. You’ve repeatedly been bullied, betrayed, and beaten. You’ve given up on ever having a healthy relationship. It’s easier to just keep to yourself. The New Jerusalem will make that possible. But by the time you can get that kind of space, you won’t want it. People, including you, will no longer be annoying or hurtful. Heaven will be a safe place.

1. It will be safe – *“no longer existed any sea”* (Rev. 21:1); *“no night”* (Rev. 21:25); *“great and high wall”* (Rev. 21:12)

The original recipients of Revelation lived in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey. When they read the sea would be absent in this new existence, they had to wonder which sea John was referencing. The Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea encompassed a large portion of their land. Jewish readers would have thought of the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. For all these, the sea was a source of food, commerce, and transportation. John may have been communicating the physical absence of a sea, but it is more likely he was stressing the absence of what the sea brought – danger, separation, and uncertainty.

We know there will be large bodies of water there. Ezekiel speaks of a future date when a deep river will flow from the Temple down the Jordan Valley into the Dead Sea. The “Dead Sea” will no longer be an appropriate name for this body of water because it will be teeming with life (Ezek. 47:1-10). John also saw a “sea of glass” in front of God’s throne. Though the setting was tempestuous, the water was serene (Rev. 4:6; 15:2). Eternity’s sea will no longer threaten life. Instead, it will be a source of life.

John also speaks of the absence of night and the presence of a tall, thick wall. Night brings fear. If you don’t think so, listen to the rapid heart-beat of the teenage girl who has to walk alone from the door of her workplace to her car at the far edge of the parking lot late at night. A wall brings security and peace. Normally, the city authorities would close the gates at night to keep animals and enemies out. Here, the gates remain open. There is no danger. There is no fear.

What dangers do you currently face? What do you fear? Maybe your current house is in a dangerous part of town, and you fear for the safety of your family. It could be that you live in a country where being a Christian can mean the loss of your job or worse. Some of you are afraid because your body, the home of your soul is decaying rapidly. You are afraid for yourself and your family. What will the end look like? Who will take care of your family?

The place Jesus is preparing has strict requirements for who can enter. He doesn’t allow fear to pass through its gates.

You don’t have to wait until then to banish your fear. Though danger surrounds you now, so does Jesus! The sea created great fear for Jesus’ disciples, but Jesus said to the waves, “Peace, be still,” and they obeyed. He enabled Peter to walk on top of his fears. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, his fears could not pull him down. The same can be true for you.

1. A new provision –
2. A life filled with peace – *“I will give…without cost”* (Rev. 21:6)

One of the greatest concerns any of us possess is the constant pressure to pay the bills. We work long hours, sometimes at the expense of our families, to do what we believe is necessary to provide for them. Everything costs money. Between the taxes we pay and the amount we spend just on necessities, there is often little left to provide any safety net. The people in Jesus’ day had the added concern of Roman troops who might steal needed resources at any time. The Jews had no assurance of their next meal and few extra pieces of clothing. Worry was a constant companion.

Jesus gave them just cause not to worry. Their heavenly Father already knew what they needed and had promised to provide for them (Matt. 6). Their responsibility was to seek the Kingdom of God and leave the rest in God’s hands. God provides, and He provides good things.

*“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things*?” (Romans 8:32)

In God’s house, the fridge is always full of good food. John spoke of some of the food we will enjoy in eternity – a constant supply of clean, pure water (Rev. 22:17) and an ever-changing fruit menu (Rev. 22:2). Smoothie anyone? I can hear it now. “You mean we’re all going to be vegetarians in eternity? Leaves don’t sound very appetizing.” To calm your fears and whet your appetites, take a look at this verse:

*“In Jerusalem, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.”* (Isaiah 25:6)

God’s working the grill tonight!

There’s one more wonderful truth about this supply. In God’s house, the family doesn’t pay for anything in the fridge. It’s all free. He already paid the cost.

For many of us, our great concern is the taste and presentation of food. For large portions of the world, their concern is the *presence* of food. Many of the original audience for the book of Revelation were enduring persecution. Food was in short supply. What they had didn’t look or taste appetizing. During the Tribulation, those who refuse the Mark of the Beast will struggle to feed their children. How would these people respond to Jesus’ promise? Their situation prompted fear. Their Savior offered peace. He offers the same to you.

While we’re waiting for what Heaven has in store, let’s do two things. One, check your attitude toward what you have. Be thankful for it. Some have much less than you do. And don’t worry about what you have. Your Father has promised to provide both now and in the future. Second, work to provide for others. The ultimate responsibility for meeting needs falls on Jesus, but He has given you extra resources to see if you, in love will use them for other’s benefit.

1. A life filled with productivity – *“His bond-servants shall serve Him”* (Rev. 22:3)

Eternity will see us in a new, beautiful, secure home with plenty of tasty and nutritious food to eat. Next question.

What will we do in eternity? If you think we’re going to be floating around on clouds strumming harps, you’ve been paying too much attention to cartoons and not enough to the Bible! And if you think that because the home is already constructed and the food is free, you won’t have to do any work, you don’t understand the ways of God. He told Paul to write these words:

*“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either*.” (2 Thess. 3:10)

Put simply, we will do whatever God wants us to do. We will serve Him. We won’t be wasting time, frivolously using it on activities possessing no value, designed simply to entertain us. I believe there will be no television or social media in Heaven. Why spend time laughing at or envying someone else’s fictitious life when you can fully enjoy your own? Life won’t be wasted fulfilling our latest whim. We will focus our lives and all our activities on glorifying God. That’s what God commands us to do now.

*“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* (1 Cor. 10:31)

Several translations of Revelation 22:3 say the inhabitants of eternity will “serve” Him. Others say we will “worship” Him. Which is it? Both. When we are obedient, and our motivation is in the right place, the most mundane and seemingly irreligious actions can be acts of worship toward God.

What about sports? Can sports be an act of worship toward God? If eating and drinking can be acts of worship, then sports can. Some of you don’t get too excited about a heavenly existence because you believe there will be no soccer, baseball, video games, or backgammon there. (Yes, Heaven without backgammon would be Hell.)

Who says there will be no sports in Heaven? If you remove the greed, temper flare-ups, cheating, obscenities, idolatry, gambling, favoritism, immodesty, lust, selfishness, and pride that usually accompany sports, it could make it into Heaven. Sports might even start to be fun again. We could play them for the love of God and the love of the game instead of playing for the love of money.

1. A new body
2. No unintended limitations – *“no longer be any death”* (Rev. 21:4)

Some of these activities we’ll be doing in heaven will require us to have a body. Eating without a mouth is difficult, and if we’re just spirits, even if we could pick up the food, we wouldn’t have taste buds to enjoy it. Don’t worry. When Jesus resurrects us, we will get a new body, and it will be perfect. Don’t get too excited. That doesn’t mean your spouse will suddenly look Hollywood ready. It also doesn’t necessarily mean you will be able to fly, hit a home run every time at bat, or be able to produce great art. God may have intended these limitations for you.

On the other hand, get excited. A perfect body is a body that meets all the expectations of its designer. Who was your designer? God. You will finally look the way God designed you to look. The reason you don’t look that way now is because of sin and the curse, both of which will be gone. So what does a body not affected by sin and the curse look like?

The Bible records only two examples of uncontaminated bodies – Adam and Eve’s before sin and Jesus’ after His resurrection. You will be disappointed if you look in Scripture for any physical description of these bodies. There is no record of their height, waist size, muscle mass, chin structure, or eye color.

We do know what they could and could not do. Since they were physical bodies, they could interact with the physical world. They could eat and talk. They could touch and be touched. Since Jesus’ post-resurrection body was both physical and spiritual, He was no longer limited by the physical world. He could pass through walls and travel great distances instantaneously.

Of greater significance is what sinless bodies could *not* do. They couldn’t decay or die.

Think about how much money you spend each month because your body is decaying. You buy stuff to grow hair where it has fallen out and color hair that is graying. You pay doctors to tell you what’s wrong and buy medicine to fix it or take away the symptoms. Your membership at the gym is designed to prevent those muscles from degenerating into flab. It might even work if you would *use* the membership. Think how much time some of you would save every morning if you had no wrinkles to conceal. Teeth whiteners, glasses, hearing aids, laxative, insulin, chemotherapy, health insurance, life insurance, funerals. All gone. God never intended any of these limitations. Adam lived to the age of 930 (Gen. 5:5), but he died too young.

The first Adam brought death. Jesus, the second Adam defeated it.

*“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. … So also it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. … But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’”* (1 cor. 15:22, 45, 54-55)

1. No unintended struggles – *“no longer be any mourning or crying or pain”* (Rev. 21:4)

The absence of death is not good news for everyone. In our present existence, some people long for death. Life is just too painful. Death is their only escape. Knowing the need for final release from pain, God restricted Adam and Eve’s access to the Tree of Life in the Garden so that they could eventually die (Gen. 3:22-24).

God never intended for life to be easy or for us to be lazy. Work was a part of His original plan in the Garden. The curse made work frustrating, unproductive, and unrewarded. It perverted work. Work became a source of suffering instead of a source of fulfillment. God never intended His creation to suffer. What father would want that for his children?

As a believer, the most agonizing question I face is, “If God is good, why is there evil and suffering in the world?” I can’t answer that question completely, but I know this. God didn’t bring suffering into the world. We did. We can’t end all the suffering in the world. He will. What we have marred and continued to misshape, He will one day restore to its original beauty and design.

There will be no pain in eternity, but there will still be struggles. We need struggles. They help us grow. They challenge us. They give us goals to strive for, dreams to fulfill. Struggles are fun when you remove the curse. For you that are rock climbers, imagine all the new formations to ascend and vistas to see. The New Earth will be an oceanographer’s playground. Undersea animals long extinct and maybe even some new ones will course through earth’s waters. Since we no longer have the curse of sin to limit our brains’ capacity to think or remember, we will solve the problems that prevented us from being able to explore the cosmos. We will have a million lifetimes to do it. Can you fathom technology without the curse’s impact? The possibilities are exhilarating!

The activities of Heaven will be amazing. The companions in Heaven will be awesome!

1. A new relationship.

You’ve lived long enough to know that satisfaction is dependent far more on “who” than on “what.” Riding a roller coaster, going to the movies, eating a meal, watching a sunset – all of these are meant to be experiences you share. The enjoyment of virtually any activity is enhanced or curtailed by the company you keep. Heaven will present us with infinite opportunities to make and deepen meaningful relationships.

1. With God – *“I will be His God, and he will be my son”* (Rev. 21:7)

The text says that God will be with us not that we will be with Him (Rev. 21:3). From the beginning, it has always been God coming to where we are, not us coming to where He is. He has always initiated the relationship.

*“We love Him because He first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19)

*“…as it is written, ‘There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless…’”* (Romans 3:10-12)

Though we were “useless,” though we wanted nothing to do with God, He reached out to us. He loved us even though we despised Him (Rom. 5:8).

Consider the person who ran from God his whole life but finally submitted to God’s authority days before his death. He never had a chance to develop a friendship with God. He’s got a lot of catching up to do, but he will have the opportunity to learn from God Himself. He will have eternity to do it.

Or what about the person like Job. He had a relationship with God and thought his understanding of God was exemplary. When Job heard God speak to him directly, he discovered he had some misconceptions about God that were stifling their relationship. In humility, he said:

*"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes."* (Job 42:5-6)

What will it be like to *see* God as He really is? To hear His voice without all the distractions or distortions, to feel His presence and yearn for Him more than life itself? The greatest thrill of Heaven will be growing in our understanding and enjoyment of God. Since God is infinite, we will never exhaust our exploration of Him.

1. With each other – *“the nations shall walk by its light”* (Rev. 21:24)

We will also enjoy and learn each other. You don’t know me, and I don’t know you. There are parts of ourselves we keep hidden. Adam and Eve’s first response after sin was to hide from God and each other. We're embarrassed and ashamed and anxious about how we would be received if others truly saw us – if we were genuine. Sin did that to us. It put a barrier between you and me.

That barrier will be gone. So will the shame. We will finally be free to exist as the person God designed us to be without the fear of disappointing someone or failing. Failure will still be a possibility, but it won’t matter. It’s not that we won’t care what others think anymore; it’s that we’ll all support each other in the God-given opportunities we attempt. That’s how people react when they love each other.

I know. This seems like a dream world when you consider earth’s present state. Jesus said that nations increasingly warring against each other would be one of the signs of His approaching return (Matt. 24:6). Every newscast then is an announcement of His arrival. As nations, and as individuals, we compete for power, resources, and attention. The enemy has blinded us to each other’s inexpressible worth. You won’t find value in the other guy’s possessions; you’ll find it in the person.

John says God will open our eyes as the peoples walk in the light.

1. A new perspective – *“then I saw”* (Rev. 21:1); *“he showed me”* (Rev. 22:1)

One of Jesus’ most controversial miracles was giving sight to a man who had been born blind. In response to the religious leaders’ interrogation, the man said this:

*“Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”* (John 9:25)

If you had asked Saul if his perception of the world was accurate, he quite possibly would have arrested you for even considering that his thinking was faulty. But then he encountered Jesus. The light of Jesus blinded him forcing him to reevaluate his perception of the world.

*“Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized.”* (Acts 9:17-18)

All of us think we can see. We believe we have an accurate worldview. Solomon knew his worldview was off, so he prayed God would help him to understand the difference between what is evil and what is good (1 Kings 3:9). God granted his request. Get ready. He will change our perception of what is good too.

1. Obedience to God is good – *“nothing unclean”* (Rev. 21:27)

Right now, people call good “evil” and evil “good” (Isaiah 5:20). City leaders court or at least ignore immoral activities so long as those activities contribute to the city’s financial standing. Gambling, human trafficking, abortion, homosexuality and government corruption are all seen as acceptable practices.

God sees things differently. He has a different standard of righteousness. He sees truth-telling, sacrificial living, protection of life, thankfulness, and humble service as good practices. Those who live in His city will share His values. Nothing unclean will pass through its gates, and no one inside would have it any other way. Obedience to God is good.

1. Glory to God is good – *“kings…bring their glory and honor”* (Rev. 21:24)

All that John described, and everything we have examined…it’s not for us. We get to enjoy it, but it’s for Him. Everything is for Him.

On the night Jesus was born, the angels thundered, “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14). Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed – praised, honored, glorified – be your name.” The prayer ends with these words: “For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (Matthew 6:9, 13).

Heaven will be glorious, but it will center on God’s glory, not yours or mine. Right now, the people of influence (“kings”) find their motivation in their quest for their glory. There, we will take whatever glory we gained on earth and throw it at the feet of Jesus (Rev. 4:10). Glory to God is good.

1. Worship of God is good – *“worship God”* (Rev. 22:8-9)

You’ve probably endured some “worship” events that made you feel like you were in Hell. You couldn’t wait to leave. There’s one of two reasons for this. Either they weren’t presenting an accurate picture of God, or you have no taste for worship. In both cases, someone has a skewed take on worship. They’re worshipping themselves or other people.

You want to go to Heaven, but you have this nagging question. What if Heaven is a worship event that goes on forever? The thought sends shivers through your body. It almost motivates you to examine the travel brochure for Hell.

Let me be candid. If you don’t enjoy worship now, there’s a good chance you won’t enjoy it then either. Yes, worship will be easier there. We will see God in all His glory. But we can see enough of God now to motivate us to fall on our faces before Him and pour out our lives as a worship offering (Rom. 12:1). Worshipping God is good.

1. Presence of God is good – *“they shall see His face”* (Rev. 22:4)

Admit it. As good as God is, there are times you don’t want Him around. It’s not necessarily because you want to do something bad or because you’re feeling guilty. You just want some alone time. Or you want to spend some time on you, and the presence of God reminds you of the requirements of God. Knowing He’s there makes you evaluate everything you do and question how He’s going to respond to it.

David, the second king of Israel, knows how you feel. He wrote a Psalm about trying to escape the presence of God.

*“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”* (Psalm 139:7)

After suggesting multiple places where he could run and realizing God was present in each of those places, he came to this conclusion. God’s presence is a good thing.

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.”* (Psalm 139:23-24)

**Conclusion:** What about you? Is God’s presence a good thing to you? If it is, you’re going to love Heaven! God’s fingerprint and His likeness are everywhere. He is inescapable. Heaven is a place, but what makes Heaven heavenly is the presence of God. Heaven without God would be Hell.

That leads us to the other possibility for your eternal home. If the presence of God is something you want to avoid, then there is only one option for you. Your home will be in Hell. No one can feel the presence of God in that place.

Before you start shouting hallelujah and making your travel plans, let me make sure you understand the nature of your destination. You may not consider obedience to God, giving glory to God, worshipping God, or the presence of God to be good. But you probably would agree that love, enjoyment, music, loyalty, security, and satisfaction are all good. They and a host of other benefits come from God. If God is absent, then they will be too.

Choose wisely.

1. “How high do satellites orbit the earth?”; Yahoo! answers; retrieved Feb, 2018 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)