



## *Living in light of Heaven*

- ❖ *How old are you?*
- ❖ *How many years do you have left on earth?*
- ❖ *What do you anticipate for the rest of your life?*
- ❖ *Is the fulfillment of your life limited to your earthly life span?*

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***John 14:2-3, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."***

- ❖ ***Do you believe this?***
- ❖ ***Do you anticipate it as your destiny?***
- ❖ ***Do you expect it to happen?***

- .....
- ❖ *Charles is serving as a pastoral intern*

- ❖ ***What is the purpose of this season of his life?***
- ❖ ***Preparation for pastoral service***

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*For all of us –*

- ❖ ***What is the purpose of our Giftedness, Calling & Service?***
- ❖ ***Preparation for complete fulfillment in heaven...***
- ❖ ***Forever!***
- ❖ ***Without hindrance or corruption of any kind***

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*As that nears –*

- ❖ ***More of us will see the use of our gifts and abilities...***
- ❖ ***As service in His kingdom now –***
- ❖ ***In preparation for perfect use in heaven***

- .....
- ❖ ***What will endure through eternity?***
  - ❖ ***Us and what we were made for***

❖ Randy Alcorn – “A taste for gravel”

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Your gifts and abilities were **made for more** than the short, temporary stage of life we now know –

- ❖ **Confined** by the **death** of Adam’s curse
- ❖ You were **made for more**.
- ❖ Even if we only lived for 800-900 years...
- ❖ The 70-80 most receive would seem very short

- .....
- ❖ **Before sin and death, Adam and his descendants** were given the assignment of **working** and **governing** the whole earth
  - ❖ God said it was just what He wanted
  - ❖ **Has the enemy succeeded** in taking that away?
  - ❖ **Has he won his effort to rob God** of His purposes?

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**Isaiah 65:17**, “For behold, I create new heavens and a **new earth**; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”

**Isaiah 66:22**, “For as the new heavens and the **new earth** which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “So shall

your descendants and your name remain.”

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❖ What are we to take the **new earth** to mean?

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**Romans 5:1-5**, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into **this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God**. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, **hope**. Now **hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

- ❖ “Hope” is “**confident expectation with pleasure**”
- ❖ Many **disappointments** in this life are **legitimate**
- ❖ **They would rob us** were it not for hope
- ❖ But this life is incapable of giving all we rightly desire
- ❖ **God designed us for perfection!**

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Jesus taught us to pray –

❖ “Your kingdom come

- ❖ *Your will be done*
- ❖ ***On earth as it is in heaven***”
- ❖ *Why?*
- ❖ *Because heaven is where **God’s perfection for our lives** will be lived out...*
- ❖ ***Just as it was intended** for Adam before sin required the destruction of the earth we now live on*

❖ *Just as Jesus taught us to pray for.*

**II Peter 3:10-13**, “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons 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 dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to **His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.”*

- .....
- ❖ *What is our eternal destiny?*
  - ❖ ***Heaven on earth** ...*
  - ❖ *Just as God intended...*