

A Theology of Heaven

Part Ten: "Living in Light of Heaven"

"If there be so certain and glorious a rest for the saints, why is there no more industrious seeking after it? One would think, if a man did but once hear of such unspeakable glory to be obtained, and believed what he heard to be true, he should be transported with the vehemency of his desire after it, and should almost forget to eat or drink, and should care for nothing else, but how to get this treasure. And yet people who hear of it daily, and profess to believe it as a fundamental article of their faith, do as little mind it, or labor for it, as if they never heard of any such thing, or did not believe one word they hear."

– RICHARD BAXTER

"Our liveliness in all duties, our enduring of tribulation, our honoring of God, the vigor of our love, thankfulness, and all our graces, yea, the very being of our religion and Christianity, depend on the believing, serious thoughts of heaven."

– RICHARD BAXTER

"If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above... Set your mind on things above, not on things that are on the earth."

– Colossians 3:1-2

"Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, *fix your hope completely* on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

– 1 Peter 1:13

Heaven's Practical Affect

➤ Heaven as new physical bodies on the new physical earth (continuity)

1. Helps avoid a false asceticism

- "asceticism" – spirituality is obtained by denying physical pleasures
- frees us to enjoy God-given "earthly" pleasures without guilt

1 Timothy 4:1-5

"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth."

1 Timothy 4:1-5

"For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer."

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1. Helps avoid a false asceticism

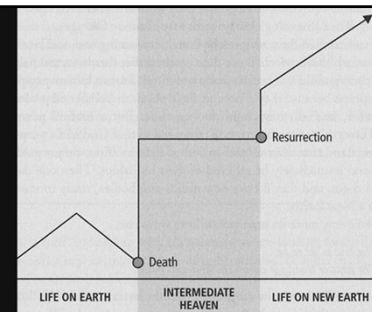
- teaches us to view earthly pleasures as foretastes of Heaven
- allows us to forego or miss out on earthly pleasures without disappointment or regret

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2. Gives proper perspective on our current bodies

- removes complaining or depression over current defects, disabilities, or diseases
- removes discouragement, regret, anger, envy over deteriorating health and aging



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3. Provides real, tangible comfort in times of death

- makes reunion with loved ones all the more precious and real
- missed opportunities regained and greatly expanded; new opportunities await