

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Kingdom Outposts, Pt 2 **Revelation 21:1-8**

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PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: Too often the mind of the Christian is set upon heaven, when in reality it is not our final destination. Alongside that error is the error of thinking that the gospel is ultimately for us to be saved, therefore, to go to heaven. But this is not true either. The gospel is ultimately about God bringing renewal to all of creation, destroying sin, Satan, and death. It speaks of God redeeming a people to be His kingdom and His sons. In this sermon Pastor Henry seeks to help us see the new heavens and earth and then consider how that future reality is to be expressed by the church in the here and now.

I. Introduction.

- A. Because of time constraints I did not finish this message. The application of the text is critical to the overall message in this series so I want to spend our time reflection on what the coming new heaven and earth means now.
- B. Review the prior week.
 - 1. Our joy is much more than our sin being forgiven.
 - 2. The ultimate hope is that we will be partakers of the new heaven and earth and all that comes with that.
 - 3. The goal of the gospel is not to get “saved” or even to go to even.
 - 4. Rather, in the new heaven and earth is both the end (of the old, with all of its broken hopelessness) and the beginning, the true beginning.

II. The New Heavens and Earth in Application.

- A. Missional living and evangelism rides on this passage.
 - 1. We need to see that there is something better than the now.
 - 2. We need to see that the gospel and the church is designed to prepare us to die, to meet God.
 - 3. We must learn to look and live before our city beyond the now.

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4. We have to think about this carefully and deeply. How are we reflecting hope and joy is what is coming rather than what is now?
- B. But we are also called to be outposts of this new heavens and earth. We are to show this in our lives, our words and our actions.
1. Our culture usually avoids at all costs the thought on death. We sanitize it.
 2. Or, it embraces death as the ultimate escape, the way out of this mess we call life.
 3. When Christians face the first death too often we fail to think rightly on it.
 4. The terror of dying captures our hearts and our prayers. Listen to your prayers. Listen to your community group prayer requests. The paramount issue is to be healed, safety, comfort, happiness, pleasure, etc.
 5. But though a request to heal is not wrong, it is short-sighted. For it looks to the here and now more than the new heavens and earth where all death flees.
 6. We need to ask God in the face of illness that we be content and the die well. Let us live and die as sons of God. Let us show in the face of this great trial, **that we do not fear the second death.**
- C. Colossians 3—two reasons we are to not participate in these activities and attitudes. January 13, 2017
1. First, because we are already part of the kingdom in heaven.
 2. Second, because on account of these things the wrath of God shall come.
- D. The Gospel Is To Be Lived Out Before The World.
1. God ultimately has come to rescue and renew all of the universe through the work of Jesus.

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2. Our responsibility is to live before our fellow man in such a way that they see vestiges of that in very practical, tangible ways.
3. At times that will be through works that fight against the ravages of sin: Galatians 2:1-10.
4. At other times it will be through living in a counter-cultural manner.
 - a. We are to be that city on the hill that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 5:14-16.
 - b. What are three key idols of our culture? Money, sex and power.
 - (1) Money:
 - (a) We need to make sure that as a church and as individuals we show a spirit of generosity and mercy through our funds.
 - (b) Remembering always that gospel came to us when we were most needy.
 - (2) Sex:
 - (a) We must resist the glamorization of sex that our nation lives for as well as the fear of sex that too many Christians exhibit.
 - (b) The church is to function as a true family, therefore the men and women respect one another as sisters. It is an act of love and respect.
 - (c) It shows love toward those who do not agree with the gospel's view of sex, but does not budge regarding the truths of God's word.
 - (3) Power:
 - (a) The church should reject all forms of power brokering and share power instead.

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- (b) The gospel tells us to follow our Lord, who washed the feet of the disciples.
 - (c) The gospel reminds us that out of every nation, tribe, people and tongue God purchased a people to be His own.
5. Finally, this means that if we understand that our final destination is not heaven, but the new earth, then we reject the idea that physical/material is bad, and spiritual/non-material is good.
- a. We learn to rejoice and find great delight in God's creation—seeing it as His creation.
 - b. We show the world around us how we can worship God in this creation, without becoming worshipers of the creation (cf. Romans 1:18ff).

III. Benediction:

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Small Group Questions

- **How well do we portray God's character as sons? Would our neighbors and friends and family say, there is a son of God?**
- **What are some ways that the Church over history has lived out the truths of the new heavens and earth?**
- **How can your group begin to battle the powers of this age by seeking to portray the joys of the new heavens and earth? In other words, how can you perhaps begin to be a blessing to those around you?**
- **How well are we doing in showing an Kingdom-oriented alternative to the many idols of our land? Why or why not?**