

Heaven

XXIX. Relationships

A. Our Desires and Christ

1. Christ

a. The Alpha and Omega

b. The First and the Last

c. He alone is sufficient to meet our needs both here and now as well as in the future

2. God's Design of Us

a. For relationships with Him and others of our kind

i. Before creation was finished - It is not good for man to be alone - Ge 2:18

ii. At the end of creation, after the making of the woman, everything that God made was "Very Good" - Ge 1:31

b. People's thoughts about desiring more than God only

i. Some us Ps 73:25 "Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You." to prove that we should only desire our relationship with God

ii. Others think that one should not desire heaven, but God only

c. God commended those "that desired a better, that is, a heavenly country," but instead He says "That He is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them." - Heb 11:16

d. David's two inseparable things - Ps 27:4

i. One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life,

ii. To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

B. Our Needs

1. We sing, "All I Need is Christ" and "You Are My All In All," It sounds spiritual

2. Consider again Ge 2:18 - God said that

a. Adam needed more than Him

b. After the woman was created, everything was "Very Good"

3. We need each other - Consider

a. Discipleship - Mt 28:19-20

b. Spiritual gifting - 1 Co 12

c. Encouragement - He 3:13; 10:25

4. Giving Attention to people is not detracting us from God

5. The 2nd greatest commandment to love your neighbor is inseparable from the 1st greatest commandment to Love God with your whole being - Mt 22:37-39

6. Loving another is a fulfillment of the whole law - Ro 13:8,10; Ga 5:14; Jas 2:8

7. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees that thought they could love God w/o loving people - Lk 10:27-37

C. Paul's Talk of Reunion

1. Paul speaks of his love for the Thessalonians - 1 Th 2:8,17;

2. anticipating his future relationship with them in Heaven - 1 Th 2:19-20; 4:13-14

3. Part of Paul's joy in God was found in them - 1 Th 3:9

4. He prayed for them earnestly - 1 Th 3:6,9-10

5. He anticipates Christ's return so he can be w/ Him and all His people - 1 Th 3:13

6. John taught the love of God's people was equivalent to loving God - 1 Jo 3:17; 4:20-21

D. Our Memory

1. Many think we will not remember this old world, it won't even come into our minds
siting Is 65:17

a. needs to be understood in context,

i. previous verse talks of God forgetting the troubles of the people

ii. The Omniscient God cannot forget but chooses not to remember like He
does our sins - Jer 31:34

b. God is speaking of Himself not remembering this former world

2. Remembering

a. The Martyrs under the throne remember what happened to them - Re 6:9-11

b. Jesus' promise to those who suffered here will be comforted there - Lk 16:25

3. The Glorified Mind

a. will be clearer, not foggier

b. the lessons that we learned here about God's love, grace, and mercy surely will
not be forgotten

c. The scars of the crucifixion were visible in Jesus' resurrected body - Jo 20:24-29;
signs that we will remember our sins and what He did for us

i. Heaven's happiness is not dependent on ignorance of what happened on
earth

ii. It is enhanced by our informed appreciation of God's glorious grace and
justice as we grasp what really happened here - Ro 9:22-24

d. There will be memorials to the 12 tribes of Israel and the Apostles - Re 21:12-14;
indicating a continuity and memory of History

E. Recognizing One Another

1. A Reminder about "Christoplatonism"

a. 2/3rds of Americans who believe in the resurrection believe they will not have
bodies after the resurrection

b. our souls merely occupy our bodies like a hermit crab and a shell

c. our souls could naturally or even ideally live in a disembodied state

d. Created a dichotomy between the physical and the spiritual

2. Obviously Christ was recognized countless times after His resurrection

a. By the 10

b. By Thomas - Jo 20:24-29

c. On the shore of the sea of Galilee - Jo 21:1-14

d. To the 500 - 1 Co 15:6

e. By Mary at the tomb - Jo 20:15-16

f. On the road to Emmaus - Lk 24:31

3. Others that were recognized

a. Moses and Elijah - Lk 9:29-33 - even though the disciples had never met or seen
either of them

b. Samuel the Prophet - 1 Sam 28:11-19

4. Paul and Thessalonians

a. looked forward to seeing them - 1 Th 2:19-20

b. told them to comfort one another with seeing those that passed at the Rapture - 1
Th 4:14-18

i. there would be no comfort if they wouldn't know each other

ii. But there would be much comfort knowing that we will see deceased
loved ones