

“JESUS’ PATH: Living for Heaven”

Colossians 3:1-4

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - "If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. **For you died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also **will appear with Him in glory.**"

NLT - "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory."

ESP - "Si ustedes, pues, han resucitado con Cristo, busquen las cosas de arriba, donde está Cristo sentado a la diestra de Dios. Pongan la mira (la mente) en las cosas de arriba, no en las de la tierra. Porque ustedes han muerto, y su vida está escondida con Cristo en Dios. Cuando Cristo, nuestra vida, sea manifestado, entonces ustedes también serán manifestados con El en gloria."

AMP - "IF THEN you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth. For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in [the splendor of His] glory."

I. **DIRECTION** towards Heaven.

- II. **CONTEMPLATION** about Heaven.
- III. **MORTIFICATION** for Heaven.
- IV. **GLORIFICATION** in Heaven.

I. **DIRECTION** towards Heaven. - *"If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."*

*"If then you were **raised with Christ**,.."*

Referring back to Colossians 2:

Circumcised from Christ

Baptized in Christ

Regenerated with Christ

Redeemed by Christ

WDJD?? "What Did Jesus Do??"

*After His resurrection, **Jesus left the tomb**. So should we - we don't live there any more.*

*After His resurrection, **Jesus ministered to His disciples**. So should we - live our lives to be with and to serve one another.*

*After His resurrection, **Jesus lived in supernatural power** with the ability to do impossible things. So should we - with the power and the enabling of the Holy Spirit.*

*Living human..sleeping in a **coffin**??*

*Freed prisoner..back to **jail cell**??*

*"...**seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."*

Greek "**zeteo**" - meaning to strive, crave, desire, long for (*Present, Active, Imperative tense!!*)

WDJD?? How did He live when He resurrected??

1.) Living **like** Heaven

2.) Living **for** Heaven

After His resurrection, **Jesus looked forward to heaven**, knowing He would soon enough ascend there. So should we - recognizing that our citizenship is in heaven.

What is **YOUR** major **focus, passion** and **obsession??**

John 14:1-3

John 13:3

Matt 6:33

Matt 6:10

"We are very shy nowadays of even mentioning Heaven. We are afraid of the jeer about "pie in the sky," and of being told that we are trying to "escape from the duty of making a happy world here and now into dreams of a happy world elsewhere." But either there is "pie in the sky" or there is not. If there is not, then Christianity is false, for this doctrine is woven into its whole fabric. If there is, then this truth, like any other, must be faced, whether it is useful at political meetings or no." - **C.S. Lewis in The Problem of Pain.**

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who **thought most of the next.** It is since Christians have largely **ceased to think of the other world** that they have become so ineffective in this." - **CS Lewis, Mere Christianity.**

What will Heaven really be like?? Does Scripture tell us??

110 chapters in the Bible!!

The "**North Star** of the Church"

Major topic in pulpits **200** years ago...not today!!

"Love heavenly things; **study** them; let your hearts be **entirely engrossed** by them." - **Adam Clarke**

The 1 Major Phrase @ Heaven: "HEAVEN is coming to EARTH"

The 3 Major Phases of Heaven:

- 1.) The **Dimension** of Heaven - when a Christian dies.
- 2.) The **Kingdom** of Heaven - the 1,000 yr Millennium.
- 3.) The **Eternal** Heavens - the universe is renewed/perfected.

Phase #1 - [The **DIMENSION** of Heaven - "Adoration"]

"Where will Christians go when they die? When a Christian opens their eyes in Heaven, what will they see?"

Revelation 4,5

Ezekiel 1,10

Job 1,2

1 Kings 22:19-23

Rev 4:2-4,10-11 - "Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, **a throne** set in heaven, and **One** sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a **rainbow** around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were **twenty-four thrones**, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in **white robes**; and they had **crowns** of gold on their heads... the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and **worship** Him who lives forever and ever, and

cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

"I once led a man to Christ...one day he said, "Pastor, you know this new eternal life I have -- well, I've been thinking about it. **What are we going to do all day long for eternity?**" "We'll praise the Lord," I said. **"Forever - for ten million years! --we're going to stand around and praise the Lord?"** "Well, yes," I said, although heaven was beginning to sound like cable television. **"For millions and millions of years?"** he said. **"Couldn't we just stop now and then and mess around a while?"** I kidded him about his "dumb questions," but I have to admit, I've had similar questions of my own at times." - **Calvin Miller.**

Phase #2 - [The KINGDOM of Heaven - "Domination"]

"What will the world look like when the Kingdom of Heaven comes to earth?

Revelation **19,20.....19:11-16** - " Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, **a white horse**. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness **He judges and makes war**. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God**. And the **armies in heaven**, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, **followed Him on white horses**. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And **He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron**. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and

wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**

Rev 20:4-6 - "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and **judgment** was committed to them....And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years**. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with Him a thousand years.**"

Daniel 7,9.....**Dan 7:13,14** - "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like **the Son of Man**, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given **dominion and glory and a kingdom**, That **all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him**. His dominion is an **everlasting dominion**, Which shall not pass away, And **His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.**"

Zechariah 14....**14:9** - " And the **Lord shall be King** over all the earth. In that day it shall be "The Lord is one," And His name one."

NLT Isaiah 2:2-4 - "In the **last days**, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all— the **most important place on earth**. It will be raised above the other hills, and **people from all over the world will stream there to worship**. People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. **There he will teach us his ways,**

and we will walk in his paths.” For the Lord’s teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.”

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 NLT - "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have— Jesus Christ. Anyone who **builds on that foundation** may use a **variety of materials**—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what **kind of work each builder has done**. The fire will show **if a person’s work has any value**. If the work survives, that builder will **receive a reward**. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames."

The "Overcomer" Promises - "What will **Christians be like** in the Kingdom of Heaven? **What will we do** in the Kingdom?"

Revelation 2:7,11,17,6-28

Revelation 3:5,12,21

"What shall we do in heaven? Not lounge around but rather we will worship, we will work, we will think, and we will communicate, enjoying activity, beauty, people, and God. First and foremost, however, we shall see and love Jesus, our Savior, Master, and Friend." - **James Packer**

"Jesus, our Lord, once crucified, dead and buried, now sits upon the throne of glory. The highest place that heaven affords is his by undisputed right. It is sweet

to remember that the exaltation of Christ in heaven is a representative exaltation....**the honours which Jesus wears in heaven will one day belong to all the saints.** It is delightful to reflect how close is Christ's union with his people. We are actually one with him; we are members of his body; and his exaltation is our exaltation. **He will give us to sit upon his throne,** even as he has overcome, and is set down with his Father on his throne; he has a crown, and **he gives us crowns too;** he has a throne, but he is not content with having a throne to himself, **on his right hand there must be his queen,** arrayed in "gold of Ophir." He cannot be glorified without **his bride.** Look up, believer, to Jesus now; let the eye of your faith behold him with many crowns upon his head; and **remember that you will one day be like him,** when you shall see him as he is; you shall not be so great as he is, you shall not be so divine, but still **you shall, in a measure, share the same honours, and enjoy the same happiness and the same dignity which he possesses.** Be content to live unknown for a little while, and to walk your weary way through the fields of poverty, or up the hills of affliction; **for by-and-by you shall reign with Christ, for he has "made us kings and priests unto God, and we shall reign for ever and ever."** Oh!, wonderful thought for the children of God! We have Christ for our glorious representative in heaven's courts now, and soon he will come and receive us to himself, to be with him there, to behold his glory, and to share his joy." - **Spurgeon**

"The caricature of heaven as an eternity of idleness has no basis in Scripture. Instead, the N.T. conception unites the two thoughts of **being with Christ and of service for Christ.** This blending is definitely set forth in the last chapter of Revelation

where we read of 'those who serve Him, and see His face.' Here **the life of contemplation and the life of active service** are welded together as being not only compatible, but absolutely necessary for completeness. **But remember that if there is to be service there, the exercising ground is here. I do not know what we are in this world for unless it is to apprentice us for heaven. Life on earth is a bewilderment unless we are being trained here for a nobler work which lies beyond the grave.**" - **Alexander Maclaren**

Christ's Parables of the TALENTS and the MINAS:

Matt 25:14-30 ; Luke 19:11-27

"What we do in life, echoes in eternity!" - Russel Crowe

◦ **Phase #3 - [The ETERNAL Heavens - "Perfection"]**

"When the 1,000 Millennium is over, God's enemies are finally wiped out, and sin has at last been completely eradicated from the earth...what will the world look like?"

*Revelation 21,22.....NLT Rev 21:1-7 - "Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, **the new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven like **a bride** beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "**Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.**" * He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he*

said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. **All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.**"

"If I find in myself **a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy**, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." - **C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity**..... (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

As **Marco Polo**, the famous Italian explorer of the 13th century, lay dying, he was urged by his detractors to recant--to withdraw the stories he had told about China and the lands of the Far East. But he refused, saying, "**I have not told half of what I saw.**"

II. **CONTEMPLATIONS** about Heaven. - "**Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**"

"Set your mind on things above,..."

Greek "**phroneo**" - to ponder, to think upon, to let something fill your thoughts. (*Present, Active, Imperative tense!!*)

Reading, meditating, learning, and studying **the SCRIPTURES!!**

2 Tim 2:15 - **Study** about Heaven!

Psalm 1 - **Be nourished** by thinking on Heaven!

Psalm 119:105 - Let Heaven **illuminate** your life!

Romans 12:1,2 - **Transform** how you

imagine Heaven!

"It is the Christian whose imagination should soar beyond the stars." - Warren Wiersbe

An American tourist's visit to the 19th century

Polish rabbi, Hofetz Chaim: Astonished to see that the rabbi's home was only a simple room filled with books, plus a table and a bench, the tourist asked, "Rabbi, where is your furniture?" "Where is yours?" replied the rabbi. "Mine?" asked the puzzled American. **"But I'm a visitor here. I'm only passing through."**

"So am I," said Hofetz Chaim.

*"...not on **things on the earth.**"*

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT) - *"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever."*

"There is an old legend of a swan and a crane. A beautiful swan alighted by the banks of the water in which a crane was wading about seeking snails. For a few moments the crane viewed the swan in stupid wonder and then inquired: "Where do you come from?" "I come from heaven!" replied the swan. "And where is heaven?" asked the crane. "Heaven!"

said the swan, "Heaven! have you never heard of heaven?" And the beautiful bird went on to describe the grandeur of the Eternal City. She told of streets of gold, and the gates and walls made of precious stones; of the river of life, pure as crystal, upon whose banks is the tree whose leaves shall be for the healing of the nations. In eloquent terms the swan sought to describe the hosts who live in the other world, but without arousing the slightest interest on the part of the crane. Finally the crane asked: "**Are there any snails there?**" "Snails!" repeated the swan; "no! Of course there are not." "Then," said the crane, as it continued its search along the slimy banks of the pool, "**you can have your heaven. I want snails!**" This fable has a deep truth underlying it. How many a young person to whom God has granted the advantages of a Christian home, has turned his back upon it and searched for snails! How many a man will sacrifice his wife, his family, his all, for the snails of sin! How many a girl has deliberately turned from the love of parents and home to learn too late that heaven has been forfeited for snails!" - **DL Moody**

III. **MORTIFICATION** for Heaven. - "**For you died**, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Colossians 2

Romans 6

2 Corinthians 5:17

IV. **GLORIFICATION** in Heaven. - "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also **will appear with Him in glory.**"

"When Christ **who is our life** appears,..."

Phil 1:21

What is YOUR life all about?

- **"..then you also will appear with Him in glory."**
 - You will see Him..but He'll see YOU too!!
 - **Romans 8:19**
 - Think of Paul..David..JESUS...YOU!!
-
- "On that day, all will **see the saints of God for what they really are**, not as they merely appear to this world. "Paul, the prisoner, an eccentric Jew to the Romans and a worse-than-Gentile traitor to the Jews, **will be seen as Paul the apostle, the servant of the King.** The Colossians, insignificant ex-pagans from a third-rate country town, **will be seen in a glory** which, if it were now to appear, one might be tempted to worship." - **Wright**