



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Living in the Light of Eternity

Passage: 2 Peter 3:11-14

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Heaven is not just a distant hope—it's a reality that should shape how we live right now. Yet many people, even Christians, rarely give it much thought.

"Although most of us believe in an afterlife, no one much talks about it. Christians believe we will spend eternity in a splendid place called heaven... isn't it a little bizarre that we simply ignore heaven, acting as if it doesn't matter?" — Philip Yancey

"It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one." — C.S. Lewis

In our text this morning, we're reminded that knowing what lies ahead should transform how we live today. Because eternity is real, our lives should reflect a holiness, urgency, and purpose that point others to the hope we have in Christ.

I. We Are to Live with Devotion (Verse 11b)

"Holy conduct refers to action; godliness refers to attitude. Holy conduct describes the way I live my life; godliness describes the spirit of reverence within me by which I live my life. Holy conduct rules my behavior; godliness rules my heart." — John MacArthur

A. Holy Conduct



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"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:3)

Hope in Christ's return leads to purity in daily living. When you know you'll soon see Jesus, you want to be clean before Him.

"When I've meditated on Heaven, sin is not terribly appealing. It's when my mind drifts from Heaven that sin seems attractive. Thinking of Heaven leads inevitably to pursuing holiness." — Randy Alcorn

If you believe Heaven is real, it will affect your daily choices—your entertainment, your habits, your relationships, and how you spend your time.

B. Godliness

If godliness means to worship well, then it ought to shape not only what happens in our private life but also how we enter the house of God.

If heaven is our home and Christ is our Redeemer, then our worship here ought to sound like a rehearsal for there.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

If we truly believe that Heaven is our home, we must start living like citizens of Heaven now. Holiness and godliness are not optional—they are the natural overflow of a heart set on eternity.

II. We Are to Live with Expectancy (Verses 12-14a)

A. Expectation Shapes Behavior

If we truly believe Jesus could return at any moment, it will change how we live today. What you believe about the future determines how you behave in the present.

"Today we see a lot of careless, slipshod living, but also a great emphasis on prophecy. I hear people say, 'Oh, I'm waiting for the Lord



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to come!’ Brother, my question is not whether you’re waiting for Him to come—but how are you living down here?” — Dr. J. Vernon McGee

B. Our Hope Is Anchored in His Promise

Our confidence is not in our timeline or our imagination—it’s in the unbreakable promise of God.

We are not looking for chaos; we are looking for Christ. We are not waiting for judgment; we are waiting for Jesus. Our anticipation of Heaven should make us faithful and joyful now.

III. We Are to Live with Diligence (Verse 14b)

“And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end.” (Hebrews 6:11)

A. Diligence in Purity

Peter says we should be “without spot.” That’s inward character—purity of heart.

A spotless life means no hidden stains before God.

A blameless life means no public shame before others.

B. Diligence in Peace

If you knew the Lord was returning in twenty-four hours, could you be at peace? Could you rest in the assurance that your heart and your hands are clean?

To live with diligence means to stay spiritually awake—to refuse complacency, to walk in purity, and to be ready to meet the Lord at any moment

Conclusion: Let’s remember: this world is not our home. The trials we face, the sacrifices we make, and the faith we hold onto are all leading somewhere far greater. One day, the journey will be



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over, and we'll step into the presence of the One we've lived for—and finally hear the words, "Well done." Until that day, let's keep walking the narrow road with our eyes fixed on eternity. Because for the child of God, the story doesn't end here—the best is truly yet to come.



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