

LESSON 8

Inconceivable Privileges

Revelation 22:3-5

and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever, Revelation 22:3-5.

Class Overview: In this lesson we see heaven as the place of complete and lasting joy. Unlike the fragile happiness of this life, heaven offers an all-inclusive happiness where every sorrow is removed, God's presence is fully realized, eternal life secures our joy forever, and fellowship with the redeemed is perfect. The vision of Revelation 21–22 reminds us that in heaven, nothing will be missing. Every longing of the soul will be satisfied, and every child of God will share in joy that can never be taken away.

Class Objectives:

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. Explain why earthly happiness is temporary and incomplete.
 2. Identify how Revelation 21:3-4 describes the absence of sorrow in heaven.
 3. Describe the joy of God's presence as the central blessing of heaven.
 4. Understand how eternal life guarantees lasting happiness.
 5. Appreciate the fellowship of the redeemed as part of heaven's all-inclusive joy.
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Introduction:

I remember standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon for the first time. Pictures I had seen all my life did not prepare me for the vastness, the depth, or the beauty that stretched before my eyes. I couldn't take it all in. Words failed. That moment taught me that some experiences are simply beyond description.

Heaven will be like that, only far greater. John, in Revelation 21-22, strains for words as he tries to describe the privileges of life in the eternal city. Gates of pearl. Streets of gold. Water of life. Yet behind those images lies a reality that cannot be fully captured. Paul reminds us, "What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived—God has prepared these things for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Think about the privileges hinted at: seeing God's face, bearing His name, sharing His glory, and serving Him without sin or weakness. These are blessings we only glimpse now in part, but in the city of God

they will be ours in full. Every promise of God will reach its completion. Every longing of the soul will be satisfied.

In this lesson we will reflect on those inconceivable privileges: the inheritance of the saints, the honor of being called God's children, and the joy of eternal fellowship with Him. These are not distant dreams, but certain realities promised to all who belong to Christ.

We Will See His Face

and there will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads, Revelation 22:3-4.

From the Text

- In this world, no one can see God fully and live (Exodus 33:20). His glory is too great for mortal eyes. Even Moses could only see the afterglow of His presence.
- But in heaven, that barrier will be removed. John says plainly: "They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads."
- To see the face of God is to know Him without distance, without fear, without limitation. It is to experience perfect fellowship, the way we were created to live in the beginning.
- This is not a privilege for angels alone—it belongs to the redeemed. God will welcome His children into His presence, where there is no more curse, no more sin, and no more separation.
- 1 John 3:2 ties this together: "We will be like him because we will see him as he is." The vision of God transforms us into His likeness.

Application:

Think of the joy of seeing a loved one after a long absence. Multiply that by eternity, and you begin to touch the privilege of seeing God's face. All the questions, the struggles, the dark nights of faith will give way to the light of His presence.

We Will Share His Glory

The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us, Romans 8:16-18.

From the Text

- Paul says we are "children of God, and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ" (Romans 8:16-17). That means His inheritance becomes ours.
- The glory Christ now has; we will share. "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:4).

- The sufferings of this life cannot compare with the glory that is coming (Romans 8:18). Every tear, trial, and loss will fade in the presence of eternal honor.
- This glory is not something we achieve. It is given to us by God's grace. We are lifted into a place of privilege not because of who we are, but because of who we belong to.
- In heaven, shame will be gone forever. The redeemed will be clothed in honor, shining like the sun in the Father's kingdom (Matthew 13:43).

Application:

In this world, many of God's people live in obscurity, misunderstood or even despised. But in the city of God, every child of His will be honored. Imagine hearing the Father say, "Well done." Imagine sharing in the glory of the Son forever.

We Will Serve Him Without Weakness or Sin

how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God, Hebrews 9:14.

From the Text

- John tells us: "His servants will worship him" (Revelation 22:3). Service will not end in heaven, it will be perfected.
- Right now, our service is hindered by weakness, distraction, and sin. We grow tired. We get discouraged. Even at our best, we fall short.
- In the city of God, those barriers will be gone. No curse. No sin nature pulling us away. Our worship will be pure. Our service will be joyful.
- This will not be servitude that diminishes us, but service that fulfills us. In heaven, to serve is the highest privilege.
- Hebrews 9:14 says the blood of Christ cleanses our conscience "from dead works so that we can serve the living God." That cleansing will be complete in heaven.

Application:

Think of the frustration you've felt when you wanted to do more for the Lord but were limited by time, health, or energy. In heaven, none of those limits remain. We will give ourselves fully to God without weariness, and that will be our delight.

We Will Reign with Christ Forever

Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever, Revelation 22:5.

From the Text

- John closes his vision by saying, “They will reign forever and ever” (Revelation 22:5). The redeemed are not only citizens of the city, but co-rulers with the King.
- This fulfills what Paul wrote: “If we endure, we will also reign with him” (2 Timothy 2:12). Our perseverance now leads to shared authority then.
- In Genesis, humanity was created to rule over God’s creation (Genesis 1:26). Sin frustrated that purpose. In heaven, it will be restored.
- This reign does not put us on God’s level but allows us to share in His victory. We reign because Christ reigns, and we belong to Him.
- This reign is eternal. Unlike the rise and fall of earthly kingdoms, the kingdom of God will never end (Daniel 7:27).

Application:

Here we often feel powerless, at the mercy of sickness, governments, or circumstances. But in heaven, we will share in Christ’s triumph. Imagine the honor of reigning with the One who conquered death. That is an inconceivable privilege.

Conclusion


When John closes Revelation, he is not trying to satisfy curiosity, he is trying to give hope. He shows us a city where God’s people enjoy privileges too wonderful for human imagination: seeing His face, sharing His glory, serving without weakness, and reigning with Christ forever. These are not empty dreams. They are promises secured by the blood of the Lamb.


Think of what this means for your life right now. Whatever you suffer, however unnoticed your service may be, however weak you sometimes feel, none of it will last. God has prepared privileges beyond description for His children. Paul said it plainly: “The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).


Heaven is not just a doctrine to discuss. It is our destiny. It is our inheritance. It is our joy. And when we get there, words will fail, for we will stand in the presence of God, overwhelmed by privileges beyond all thought, forever.


For Discussion

1. John says, “They will see his face” (Revelation 22:4). What does that privilege mean to you personally, and how does it compare with our relationship with God right now?


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2. Romans 8:16-18 speaks of believers as “heirs of God and coheirs with Christ.” How does the promise of sharing in Christ’s glory encourage you when facing present trials?


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3. Revelation 22:3 says His servants will worship Him. How is service in heaven different from the service we offer now, and why will it be a source of joy rather than weariness?

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4. What does it mean that we will “reign forever and ever” with Christ (Revelation 22:5)? How should this future reality shape the way we view earthly power and kingdoms?

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5. Of the privileges we’ve studied, seeing God’s face, sharing His glory, serving Him without weakness, and reigning with Christ, which one stirs your heart the most, and why?

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