

Sermon Series Title: "The Church of God"

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We're going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

"We are in our "The Church of God" sermon series, and we see that we are defined not by who we are but whose we are as the Church."

Call: Revelation 21:22-23

Text: Revelation 21:1-5a

Title: "Church in Eternity"

Next Week's Call: Psalm 103:1

Next Week's Text: Romans 8:1-11

Next Week's Title: "Resurrection Life"

Future Calls: Psalm 103:2-5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18, 19, 20-22

Future Titles: "Resurrection Sonship" (Romans 8:12-17), P. David's Sermon, "Resurrection Glory" (Romans 8:18-30), "Resurrection Hope" (Romans 8:31-39), "The Fruit of Kindness" (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Samuel 18:1-9), "The Fruit of Goodness" (Galatians 5:22-23, Luke 18:18-30), "The Fruit of Faithfulness" (Galatians 5:22-23,), "The Fruit of Gentleness" (Galatians 5:22-23,), "The Fruit of Self-Control" (Galatians 5:22-23,)

Fallen Condition Focus: We forget about and do not believe in our future hope.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ received all the judgment, condemnation, guilt, and shame of the old creation to make us new creation.

Central Truth: "God will make all things new."

Summary: In our passage, we see a picture of the start of permanent eternity. God will make all things new, eradicating all things old and evil. He will make us His dwelling place, and He will right all wrongs and heal all brokenness. This future is secured by the One who took on the curse of the cross to bring us into the blessing of heaven.

Reflective Questions:

1. How does the permanence of eternity make you feel?
2. Which aspect of the new heavens and the new earth stick out to you?
3. How does this shape our present reality?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- Korean people
- B. Transition- our hope; climax of all redemptive history
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. Our Future Renewal (vv. 1-2, 5a)

- A. In Rev 20, we see the defeat of Satan and the judgment of the wicked... and death itself being thrown into the lake of fire. He will right all wrong..
 1. Sea will be no more; OT- earthly rebellion, chaos, danger
 - a) Red sea- evil and wicked (removed to deliver God's people; sea being removed for final deliverance of God's people)
 - b) Revelation significance of sea- 1. Origin of the Beast 2. Cosmic evil 3. Rebellion 4. Dead 5. Idolatries 6. Old creation
 2. But God is a God of love! Wrath is rooted in love.
 3. Miroslav Volf (Croatian theologian)
- B. New Heaven and New Earth- new creation (Genesis 1), while first heaven and first earth passed away.
 1. New- Greek meaning of quality or essence v. time
 2. Romans 8- all of creation bondage to decay, groaning with the pains of childbirth for the new creation
 3. Isaiah 64 looked forward to the new heavens and the new earth
- C. New Creation ex nihilo or Transformation of the Old?
 1. GK Beale- allusions to Isaiah shows that it is a transformation of the old, being made new
 2. 1 Corinthians 15- there will be a continuity with the old creation and the new creation, but qualitatively, it will be different; what is sown as a seed in old creation will blossom as the new creation; perishable will be reaped into the imperishable; dishonor to glory, weakness to power
 3. Jesus' body- not a new creation but the old being made new and glorious; scars
 4. V. 5- "I am making all things new" v. "I am making all new things"
- D. New creation in the church (v. 2)
 1. City, new Jerusalem (city of peace w/ God's name), coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband

- a) We talked about Church as Bride last week, Church as City in January
- 2. Old Jerusalem became unfaithful, rebellious, and idolatrous.
 - a) Old creation was impermanent; new creation will be permanent. It will not change.
 - b) Augustine- Posse Peccare (able to sin), Non Posse Non Peccare (not able to not sin), Posse Non Peccare (able to not sin), Non Posse Peccare (not able to sin)
 - c) More glorious, more perfect than the Garden of Eden. We're not going back to the Garden. We're going to a place better than the Garden.
- 3. Imperfect Church in chapters 1-3; ends in perfected, glorious church in chs. 20-22
 - a) We will be made new (attempts: new school year, college, new location, new job, makeover, endless attempts to look younger, new year/new you, Q&A- sexual brokenness)

E. Application

- 1. Patience and Passivity today for peace- God of judgment
- 2. Pursuit of Justice and Mercy today
- 3. Brokenness of this world and our bodies; persevere with hope to the future
 - a) Imagine a world without mass shootings, child abuse, war, cancer, slavery, injustice, hunger, orphans, death, depression, anxiety, suicides; yelling, fists, children (streets)
 - b) Oscar Wilde- "Everything is going to be fine in the end. If it's not fine, it's not the end."
- 4. Right eschatology- NHNE not here yet; we will fall into sin

III. Our Future Residence (v. 3)

- A. God's dwelling place is with man. He will dwell with us. We will be His people, and He will be our God.
- B. This points to unhindered fellowship with God. This is a theme throughout redemptive history.
 - 1. Man walked with God in the Garden.
 - 2. God revealed Himself to the fathers of the faith in Genesis through theophanies.
 - 3. God revealed Himself personally to Moses.
 - 4. In Exodus 13, He was with His people through a pillar of smoke during the day and a pillar of fire at night.
 - a) People of slavery without land but with God

5. Tabernacle at Sinai, the wilderness, in the Promised Land till Solomon's time
6. Temple- physical building in Jerusalem
7. Ezekiel 43:7- Tabernacle among Israel
 - a) Pitching his tent among His people.
 - b) Coming back to an empty house
8. New Heavens and New Earth- not bound by physical building or sanctuary
9. Old Jerusalem had the old Temple. The New Jerusalem is the New Temple.

C. Application Points

1. God will be with us forever.
 - a) No need for covering like the Garden. Full known and loved. Naked and unashamed.
2. God is with us now.
 - a) Unconditional love, affection, and approval is with us now.
 - b) Every idol is an attempt to replace God in our hearts: 1. Romantic relationship 2. Children/Parents 3. Friends 4. Pleasure 5. Drugs 6. Sex 7. Power 8. Money; We think those things will give us the approval, affection, and love that we need.

IV. Our Future Reversal

- A. He will wipe away every tear, mourning, crying; no more pain and death.
- B. He will make all things right.
- C. This is a reversal of everything in the world because of sin.
- D. Isaiah 65- no more weeping or crying; joy and gladness
- E. No more sin, shame, betrayal, abandonment, loss, grieving, pain, suffering, death.
- F. Isaac Watts (No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found)
- G. LOTR- JR Tolkien
 1. "Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself. Is everything sad going to come untrue? What's happened to the world?"
 2. A great Shadow has departed," said Gandalf, and then he laughed and the sound was like music, or like water in a parched land; and as he

listened the thought came to Sam that he had not heard laughter, the pure sound of merriment, for days upon days without count.”

H. Application Points

1. No more pain, sorrow, sin, shame, death, mourning.
2. Pain, suffering, sorrow, death, mourning, tears now

V. Our Forever Redeemer

- A. Jesus is the One who died and was resurrected to make us new.
- B. Jesus is the ultimate Temple, broken down to make us into His temple.
- C. Jesus is the One who became the Man of Sorrows.
- D. Jesus is the One who took on the ultimate mourning, being forsaken by His heavenly Father.
- E. Jesus is the One who took on sin, shame, loss, suffering, judgment, thorns, curse, and death, so those things will be no more.