

Week of December 31, 2023

Series: The Story, Ch. 10, Pt. 3

Sermon: The End of the Beginning

Text: Revelation 21:9-22:5

Sermon Outline:

When Jesus makes all things new...

1. The promises of God will be fulfilled. (21:9-11)
2. The people of God will be there. (21:12-14)
3. The dwelling place of God will be with them. (21:15-17)
4. The people of God will be priests to God. (21:18-21)
5. The glory of God will be on display. (21:22-23)
6. The gospel of God will be unending. (21:24-27)
7. The garden of God will be restored. (22:1-2)
8. The curse of Sin will be no more. (22:3-5)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Rev. 21:1-7. Focus on v4. What would your day/week/month have been like if this verse was already implemented on Earth?
2. Read Rev. 21:8. Do you think about Hell often? How often should we think about it?
3. Read Rev. 22:1-5. To you, what is the most exciting reality about Heaven found in these verses? Why?
4. Do you have an easy or difficult time imagining what Heaven will be like? Read and comment on the following 3 statements from Randy Alcorn's book, *Heaven* (pp17-19):
 - "Everything pleasurable we know about life on earth we have experienced through our senses. So, when Heaven is portrayed as beyond the reach of our senses, it doesn't invite us; instead, it alienates and even frightens us. Our misguided attempts to make Heaven 'sound spiritual' (i.e. non-physical) merely succeed in making Heaven sound TASTE unappealing." (Heaven, p 17)
 - "...you don't need to look up at the clouds; you simply need to look around you and imagine what all this would be like without sin and death and suffering and corruption." (Heaven, p 17)
 - "Heaven isn't an extrapolation of earthly thinking; Earth is an extension of Heaven, made by the Creator King." (p19)
5. Read Rev. 22:20. If given the choice, would you rather Jesus come back now or would you rather Him wait until you had lived the rest of your life on Earth? Why did you choose your answer? If you really knew what Heaven would be like, do you think your answer would be different?

