

Huddle

*Let's Take A Short Trip To Heaven
May 19, 2013*

When you hear statements like "There are many disturbing things going on in our nation and around the world", what thoughts cross your mind?

Pastor Phil talked last week about the voice of influence we have with those around us. Part of being an influence comes from knowing the hope we have as believers.

Luke 21:28 "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

We tend to attribute streets of gold and gates of pearl to heaven but the Bible places them here in Holy Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:10-12 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel...

Revelation 21:21-27 The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

How different do you think earth will be when Jesus establishes God's kingdom here?

Pastor Dave shared several things about Holy Jerusalem:

- There will be no more death, sorrow, pain, suffering, sin, temptation, war, or devil
- We will see streets of gold, gates of pearl, sea of glass
- We will hear music, worship, seraphim angels crying holy holy, crowns rolling on a sea of glass, our praise
- We will also see our loved ones, saints of old, heroes of the faith
- Most of all, we will see Jesus in all His majesty and power.

What do you most look forward to and why?

Jesus has extended a great invitation to you. He has promised the tree of life and entry into the city if you do His commands. He also promises reward for your works.

This week, Pastor Dave encouraged us with a beautiful description of what awaits us with Jesus' second coming which will happen in two parts:

- **Rapture of the Church** when the church is caught away to meet Him in the air
- **Christ's return** to earth to set up His kingdom

The Rapture of the Church is the next great event on God's calendar!

How does knowing Jesus will return soon provide hope in the challenges you face today?

Let's Get Real!

We will see Jesus much differently than when He came to become our Savior.

Revelation 1:13-18 ...and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

How does this image of Jesus in His majesty and power impact your relationship with Him?

For us to experience the Holy Jerusalem, we must be ready.

Revelation 22:12-17 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last." Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

Jesus expresses His desire for all who are thirsty to come take the water of life but is there a difference between

- ***those who receive this invitation,***
- ***those who have the right to the tree of life,***
- ***and those who receive a reward?***

Walk it Out

How will you respond to his generous invitations this week?