

The Renewal of All Things

February 2, 2025

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ online ministry. This week's message is titled "The Renewal of All Things." Thank you to Ed, Don and everyone else involved in the service. The scripture reading is Matthew 19 verses 28 to 30. Happy birthday this week to Janet.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:28-30

I'll be reading from Matthew chapter 19 verse 28 to 30 in English and Chinese. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, all the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne. You who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel, and everyone who has left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or fields, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much, and I will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first."

Sermon

The Renewal of All Things

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for being with us today. Came across this past week what several children picture of heaven. And so I just wrote down some of the things that they said. Eric is age eight, and he says this about heaven. It's a place where there's a lot of money lying around. You could just pick it up and play with it, buy things. I think I'm gonna go buy a basketball, and I'm gonna play basketball with my great, great, great grandmother, Eric, age eight. Another person says, child says, heaven is up in the sky, and you could look down at circuses for free, if you want to, except that I think you have to ask God for permission first, so says God. Heaven is kind of big, and they sit around there playing harps. I don't know how to play a harp, but I suppose I should learn how to play the dumb thing if I'm gonna go there. And then lastly, I know what heaven is, but I don't wanna go there. I'd rather go to North Carolina. He must have enjoyed it.

Well, it's interesting in scripture itself about the renewal of all things. Matthew and others remind us that heaven isn't the end of the world, that God promises over and over again in scripture that heaven and earth will become one. The joining together as one, that God will restore all things, that there will be no divide between heaven and earth, a new reality. In scripture, there are so many scriptures that deal with this. In Acts chapter three, repent then and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, and he may send the Messiah who has been appointed for us even in Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Now, these words, for some, may be just words, but no, it is a reality.

When Paul speaks, when Jesus speaks, when James speaks and so forth and so on, it is a reality of what will be taking place, the joining together of heaven and earth as one, no divide between them. Jesus, as I've said previously, Paul, John, Peter, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Nahum, Zephaniah, all talk about these things, the restoration, the recreation, the liberation, the renewal of all things, all coming together, all of them continually repeat for us, even though written thousands of years ago, they were looking forward to what we are looking forward to, even this day.

So let me just read some scriptures today, a brief message, Jesus and Paul and Peter and so forth, but back in the book of Isaiah, remarkable book, it says this in chapter 65, see, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind, but be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create. It's for us, chapter 65 and 22. As the new heavens and the new earth that I will make will endure before me, so will your name and descendants endure.

God knows our name. And he talks to us personally, as well as the congregation and all people, the liberation of all things, the renewal of all things. Incredible. I think of the Old Testament. What did they think of heaven back in those days? Well, probably what we think today. What's it going to be like? A new heaven, a new earth coming together as one. Peter says, but in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells.

And please notice that this extraordinary, amazing promise of Jesus is for each one of us. And I saw the holy city. Have you ever thought of that one? I saw the holy city. The new Jerusalem. Now listen to this. Coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride, beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, look, God's dwelling place is now among the people. And God will dwell with us. Here he is. Here he is, part of the family. They will be his people and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death. There'll be no more crying or mourning or pain, for the older things have passed away and then he makes this promise for us, behold, I am making everything new for you, for us.

So just a couple of scriptures that just highlight some of these things. Ephesians chapter one and verse 10. God purposed in Jesus Christ to be put into effect, listen, when the times reach their fulfillment, to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth and with Christ himself. Speaking with Jesus. Won't it be great when we see our loved ones again? And won't it be great when we see Jesus face to face? Won't it be remarkable when God comes and we're with him and all of our loved ones?

He says in Isaiah, as the new heavens and the new earth that I will make, they will endure before me. That was written some 800 years ago. And that's what we're gonna do. We're gonna do this before Jesus' birth. Dear friends, now we are children of God and what we will be, what we look like, we're not gonna be, we don't know. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him. And the promise in Romans chapter eight. And if the spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead are mortal bodies because of the Holy Spirit who lives in you. There's us, individual, and inside us, around us, loving us, knowing us even before we were born, is God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. And loved ones who have already gone are waiting for us and we will be with them together. It's remarkable, the promise of God.

Wonderful preacher, Dale Pauls, one of my favorite preachers, just wrote this little blurb. I wanna share it with you.

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him, we know that. That Jesus came not to judge the world but to save it. And that the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. And I have learned, he said from scripture, that Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. And not only for our sins but also for the sins of the whole world. And that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. Not counting people's sins against them. And I have learned from scripture that we are to call no person impure or unclean. And that when Jesus is truly lifted up from the earth, he will draw all people to himself.

I have learned from scripture that one day the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters covers the sea, Isaiah chapter nine. And that one day God intends to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under Christ, Ephesians one. And that one day a great multitude that no one can count from every nation, tribe, people and language will cry out in a loud voice, salvation belongs to our God. And that one day the glory and honor of the nations will be brought into God's new Jerusalem. The kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. In the leaves of the tree, the spring, again the leaves representing the beauty of heaven. And I have learned that the living God is the savior of all people, especially those who believe that God will bring all things, all things together as one. The victory of Jesus that he offers to us. And if we receive it, how wonderful that is.

So let me just wrap up. The Apostle Paul says there's a natural body and a spiritual body and we eagerly await for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. God will not throw away our bodies, but he gives us a glorious body in the new heaven and earth. It's all difficult to comprehend, but we will live with God, we will live with Jesus, we will live with the Holy Spirit, we will live with our loved ones and have time. We will have time. It's so busy in life, but not

our future. We'll have time in a new heaven and a new earth. God promises the comfort is gloriously wonderful. Isaiah says the entire earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord just as the waters cover the sea.

What about the animals? What's gonna happen to the animals? Well, believe it or not, the scripture talks about this. Can't forget the animals. And Isaiah chapter 11, six through nine, picture this. The wolf will live with the lamb. Sorry, Don, you didn't read that right. The wolf will eat the lamb. No, no, that's not gonna happen. The wolf will live with the lamb. The leopard will lie down with the goat and the calf and the lion in the yearling together and a little child will lead them. Can't you just see a little child pulling along this monstrous whatever behind them? No, no, no, they'll be safe and they'll love us all and we'll love them. No longer will they teach their neighbors or say to one another, please know the Lord because they will all know the Lord. From the least of them to the greatest says the Lord.

Very brief message today. In conclusion, I think it's good to say to one another what Isaiah said to his people. "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord." God has amazing things waiting for us and what he says he will do, he will do. Let's just spend some time thinking about the glorious understanding of a God who loves us so much. That he cares for all of us and the promise that we have with him forever and forever, amen.

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