

Thinking about the Future

Scripture

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:1-2 NKJV).

Commentary

Thinking about the future makes the present much more tolerable. If this world was all we had to live for, life would seem rather fleeting. Going for the gusto would be the order of the day. However, this world is not the end.

If we define living as a conscience awareness of our surroundings, then life never ends. The Bible describes the second death as eternal punishment (Rev. 20:10, 14). This living death is so awful it cannot really be called life, however.

Thankfully, the believer has a future that far exceeds life as we know it. A new heaven and a new earth await us. A New Jerusalem prepared as a bride adorned for her husband will be our new home.

In that place of peace we will have access to our glorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There will be no more pain, no more tears, and no more death. There those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied.

Now, if we will fix our eyes on the future, we will guard our hearts for that day. As it was written, “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls” (Hebrews 12:2-3 NKJV). Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. What joy was that?

Clearly He would return to heaven to be with the Father, but He didn't need to leave heaven in the first place to have that. Therefore, I wonder if the future reconciliation and fellowship with His children is what was in His mind's eye.

What a glorious thought to consider such amazing love. Will you spend some time thanking Him for that gracious act of love? Imagine what it will be like when we stand before Him in all His splendor. Whatever you are able to imagine you can then multiply a million times and you still won't be able to conceive how glorious the moment will be.

My dear friends think about the future today. It will help you to endure.

Prayer

Father, as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV). Help us Lord to focus on the future knowing this world will be replaced with a glorious new one. Remind us today that we are pilgrims on this earth, and that our home is in heaven with you. Should you tarry in your return, give us strength to remain faithful, amen.