What Will We Be Doing In Heaven?
Revelation 21:1-4 (NKJV)

Please turn with me in your Bibles to tonight’s scripture text in Revelation chapter twenty one, verses 1-4.

Revelation 21:1-4 (NKJV)

1 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.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

PRAYER

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INTRODUCTION

When you read these first few verses of Revelation 21, we see how the Bible has now come full circle.

In Genesis 1:1 we read: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (New King James Version)

And here in Revelation 21:1 we read: 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. (New King James Version)

In Genesis, man’s sin brought DISORDER; in Revelation God restores
order.

In Genesis, man’s sin brought **TEARS**, in Revelation God wipes away all tears.

In Genesis, man’s sin brought **DEATH**; in Revelation God removes all death.

In Genesis, man’s sin brought **SORROW**; in Revelation God takes away all sorrow.

In Genesis, man’s sin brought **PAIN**; in Revelation God takes away all pain.

In Genesis, man’s sin **SEPARATED** man from God; in Revelation God makes His eternal dwelling place with redeemed man.

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It is difficult for our human minds to wrap around the concept of what heaven will really be like.

*Nobody has ever vacationed in heaven and come back with videos or slides to show us.

*No news reporter has ever done a live report on location from heaven for the 6:00 o’clock news.

Quite frankly, much of our concept about heaven has been formed by hymn writers or cartoonists.

*The hymn writers portray heaven as a place where believers sit in the shade with the soft breezes keeping them cool as they relax day after day for all eternity.

*The cartoonists on the other hand pictures saints with angel wings on their backs dangling their feet over the edge of a big puffy white cloud. Now sitting on the edge of cloud might be fun and exciting the first time you did it, but who wants to do that for all eternity?

**Just What Will We Be Doing In Heaven?**
That is the subject we want to consider in tonight’s message.

Surprisingly, the Bible tells us relatively little about heaven. Perhaps that is because heaven is so beautiful and so indescribable, God knew our human minds could never grasp heaven’s magnificence.

The Bible has even less to tell us about what we will be doing in heaven. We have a better idea of the things we won’t be doing:

- We won’t be going to see any doctors because there will be no more sickness or pain. (Revelation 21:4)
- We won’t be attending any funerals, because there will be no more death. (Revelation 21:4)
- We won’t be locking any doors, because there will be no evil people in heaven. (Revelation 21:27)
- We won’t be going to any weddings, because Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:30 and Mark 12:25 that “we will neither be marrying or given in marriage in heaven.”
- We won’t be keeping track of time in heaven, because in eternity, time won’t matter any more. (can you imagine no watches, no clocks, and no calendars?) (Revelation 21:23)
- We will never hear a curse word or a dirty joke uttered in heaven, because nothing that “defiles” will be there. (Rev. 21:27)
- We won’t be hearing any bad news in heaven, because there will be no more wars, no more accidents, no more crime, no more sorrow, and no more natural disasters. (Revelation 21:4 “the former things have passed away.”)

These are just some of the things we know we WILL NOT BE DOING IN HEAVEN.

But the scriptures do give us a glimpse of at least FOUR THINGS WE WILL BE DOING IN HEAVEN.

I. We Will Be WORSHIPING In Heaven
1. There are a number of scriptures in Revelation which reveal the manner in which we will worship in heaven. Let’s look at a few of them.

Revelation 4:8-11 (NKJV)

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

   “Holy, holy, holy,
   Lord God Almighty,
   Who was and is and is to come!”

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

Revelation 5:11-14 (NKJV)

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

12 saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Revelation 7:9-12 (NKJV)
9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

2. While our worship in heaven may be similar to the way we worship on earth, it will differ in other ways.

(A) For one thing, we will not worship in a BUILDING.

Revelation 21:3 (NKJV) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

Revelation 21:22 (NKJV) But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Can you imagine never seeing a single Church building in heaven? Not one steeple! Not one stained glass window! Not one pew!

The LORD God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

(B) For another thing, our worship will be entirely focused on GOD the Father and CHRIST the Son.

In all the verses we read a few moments ago about the worship in heaven all the focus was on God the Father and Christ the Son.

Our focus won’t be on a preacher or a worship leader or a praise band or a soloist, our focus of worship will be entirely upon God the Father and God the Son.
(C) And another thing that will be different about our worship in heaven is it won’t be RESTRICTED to TIME constraints.

Although we are to worship each day here on earth, our primary worship is on the first day of the week. That will not be so in heaven. Every day will be the LORD’S DAY in heaven.

And here on earth our worship begins at 11:00 and if we’re not done by NOON, some people start getting real antsy because they are afraid the Baptists and Methodists are going to beat them to the restaurants. In heaven our worship won’t be confined to a certain time.

(D) Also in heaven, we won’t be arguing over the STYLE of WORSHIP.

Isn’t it sad that here on earth our Churches spend so much time fussing and fighting over whether the worship service should be contemporary or traditional or a blend of both?

In heaven none of those things will matter. I mean can you imagine anyone in heaven refusing to sing praises to God and Christ because the songs are a “little too peppy” or a little too “old-fashioned” to suit their musical tastes? I believe we will ALL be singing like we’ve never sung before.

But not only will we be WORSHIPING in HEAVEN……

II. We Will Be LEARNING In Heaven

1. The apostle Paul writes in I CORINTHIANS 13:11-12…….
11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

2. Eternity will be spent not only worshiping God but also pursuing greater KNOWLEDGE of God!

3. In the Old Testament God revealed Himself through the Law of Moses, and through various dreams and visions. When Christ came, God revealed Himself through His Son. In time God revealed Himself through the written word, the Holy Bible.

4. But right now in our finite human minds, you and I can’t begin to comprehend all there is to know about GOD. His glory and majesty are far beyond our human ability to understand. But in heaven we will LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD than we ever dreamt possible here on earth.

In heaven, GOD will reveal Himself to us in ways He could not and did not reveal Himself to us here on earth.

5. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes by explaining the mystery of His divine will. He will show us how He worked in our lives in ways we did not perceive. He will show us why He permitted us to go through certain trials, troubles, heartaches and sorrows, and how He worked all those things together for our eternal good.

We will be WORSHIPPING in HEAVEN. We will be LEARNING in HEAVEN.

Thirdly........

III. We Will Be FELLOWSHIPPING In Heaven

(A) We will be fellowshipping with GOD and CHRIST.
Revelation 21:3 (NKJV) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

This will be the sweetest fellowship of all! No relationship in heaven will be more important to us than the relationship we have with God the father and Christ the Son.

(B) We will be fellowshipping with the SAINTS of OLD.

Daniel 12:2 (NKJV) And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Matthew 8:11 (NKJV) And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Won’t it be great to talk to Moses about what it was like to lead the Israelsites across the Red Sea? And to talk to Daniel about that night he spent in the lion’s den? And to ask Peter what it was like when he stepped out of the boat and started walking on water? And to hear Paul tell firsthand stories of his missionary journeys?

Yes, we will fellowship with the saints of old!

(C) We will also be fellowshipping with our LOVED ones who died in CHRIST.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NKJV) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

One of, if not the most painful experience any of us will ever go through in this earthly life is saying goodbye to a loved one in death. But if they died in Christ, the LORD gives us the wonderful promise that one day we will have a glad reunion with them in Heaven and never have to say goodbye again! We will have UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP
with our loved ones FOREVER!

What Will We Be Doing in Heaven?

We Will Be **WORSHIPING**!
We Will Be **LEARNING**!
We Will Be **FELLOWSHIPPING**!

And finally…..

IV. **We Will Be WORKING**

1. While heaven will be a place of rest, that does not mean heaven will be a place where everybody just lays around and does nothing for all eternity.

   **Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)**  His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

   **Revelation 22:3 (NKJV)**  And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and **His servants shall serve Him**.

2. God will have work for all of us to do to occupy us for all eternity. While the scriptures don’t tell us the specifics of what our work will entail, we know from that verse we just read in Revelation 22:3 that our work will involve serving the LORD.

3. Our work will be part of our heavenly reward. Our faithfulness to do the LORD’S work on earth will result in a reward of greater responsibilities in heaven.

**CONCLUSION**

Alexander McClaren once wrote……..

The caricature of heaven as an eternity of idleness has no basis in Scripture. Instead, the New Testament conception unites the two thoughts
of being with Christ and of service for Christ.

This blending is definitely set forth in the last chapter of Revelation where we read of 'those who serve Him, and see His face.' Here the life of contemplation and the life of active service are welded together as being not only compatible, but absolutely necessary for completeness.

But remember that if there is to be service there, the exercising ground is here. I do not know what we are in this world for unless it is to prepare us for heaven. Life on earth is a bewilderment unless we are being trained here for a nobler work which lies beyond the grave.

(Alexander Maclaren in Liberating Ministry From The Success Syndrome, K Hughes, Tyndale, 1988, p. 153ff.)

What will we be doing in HEAVEN?

We will be WORSHIPING!
We will be LEARNING!
We will be FELLOWSHIPPING!
And we will be WORKING!

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be;
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!