
Sermon Notes

March 24, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Worshipping Forever Revelation 22:3-5

Coming Attractions

- ❖ When we worship on earth we get a taste of "what's to come" in our worship in heaven
- ❖ In the future there will be nothing that hinders, intrudes on or diminishes our worship
 - heaven is the place where God's will is done completely and continually
 - in heaven, we will bring perfect thanksgiving and worship to the One who sits on the throne
- ❖ Scripture gives us a picture of a life to come that is rich, full, vibrant, and exciting
 - how does looking to things that are unseen (2 Cor 4:18) and setting your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you (1 Peter 1:13) effect your life?
 - how does focusing on the worship that goes on in heaven change how you live and how you worship God here below?

The Scene in Heaven

- ❖ Life in heaven will be **SO DIFFERENT** from life on earth
 - no more curse (sorrow, pain, tears, death)
 - the throne of God will be the focus of our worship
 - we will spend eternity pleasing God as we carry out the infinite variety of tasks that the limitless mind of God conceives for us
 - we will see God's face
 - we will have God's name on our foreheads
 - God will be our light source
 - we will reign with God forever and ever (2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 3:21)
- ❖ In heaven
 - God will inherit us, we will inherit God
 - we will experience the kind of life we were originally meant for

So What?

- ❖ What difference does looking into the worship of heaven make in how we worship God in the here and now?

- ❖ In heaven, we will no longer
 - confess our sin, evangelize the lost, seek justice for the oppressed
 - grow hoarse or tired
 - experience a disconnect between our words and our actions
- ❖ Despite these anticipated differences, there are ways in which our worship on earth anticipates and prepares us to worship God forever
 - a response to God's revelation of Himself
 - a celebration of God's Word, work, and worthiness
 - an exaltation of the Lamb who ransoms people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation
- ❖ The pictures God gives us of worship in heaven are meant to change us NOW
 - prompts us to pursue holiness (1 John 3:2-3, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 2 Peter 3:10-12)
 - our destination determines our path
 - those whom God is preparing to worship Him forever in heaven are people whose greatest desire in this life is to know and be like the Savior who redeemed them
 - helps us hold onto and be filled with joy in the midst of suffering

- the scenes of worship in heaven remind us the end of the story

- ❖ True worshipers live in hope, true worshipers are filled with expectation that the day is coming when we will do nothing but rejoice in God and boast in the Lord

Personal Application

1. What is your vision of worship in heaven? What has led you to form that vision? Are there any ways in which your vision needs to be reshaped or reformed by Scripture?
 2. Choose one or two of the ways worship in heaven will be **different** from worship on the earth and begin to praise and worship God for your future hope.
 3. Choose one or two of the ways worship in heaven will be the **same** as worship on earth. How does reflecting and meditating on this fuel your desire to go deeper in your worship here and now?
1. Think about some of the scenes of worship in heaven mentioned in this message or supplement them by looking at other Bible texts that describe what is going on right now at the throne of God. How does imagining these scenes motivate and strengthen your desire to know Jesus more intimately, to love Him more deeply and to become more like Him in thought, word, and deed?