



August 2, 2015

The Hope of Heaven and Hell

Revelation 20 - 21:8

Romans 12:17-21

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### Sermon Response:

[Q] Discuss: What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be: Most helpful? Eye opening? Troubling? Challenging? Explain.  
Is there any action you want to take as a result of the worship time or message?

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### Judgment

Read the following Scriptures:

Romans 12:19: *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."* (ESV)

Romans 14:10b: *For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.* (NIV)

### Read Revelation 20:11-15.

[Q] What is the difference between the *books* and the *book of life* in verses 12, 15?  
*books were opened* See Daniel 7:9-10.  
*the book of life* See Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8.

[Q] Do you find hope in the justness and justice of God? Why or why not? Why do you think people are offended by the idea of God judging people in Hell?

"The Cross was at once the most horrible and the most beautiful example of God's wrath. It was the most just and the most gracious act in history. God would have been more than unjust, He would have been diabolical to punish Jesus if Jesus had not first willingly taken on Himself the sins of the world. Once Christ had done that, once He volunteered to be the Lamb of God, laden with our sin, then He became the most grotesque and vile thing on this planet. With the concentrated load of sin He carried, He became utterly repugnant to the Father. God poured out His wrath on this obscene thing. God made Christ accursed for the sin He bore. Herein was God's holy justice perfectly manifest.

Yet it was done for us. He took what justice demanded from us. This "for us" aspect of the Cross is what displays the majesty of its grace. At the same time justice and grace, wrath and mercy. It is too astonishing to fathom." -- R. C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*

[Q] Are you sure your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life? Why?

*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. Hebrews 6:19-20*

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## Heavenly Hope

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**Read Revelation 21:1-8.**

[Q] What appeals to you most in this description?

[Q] Describe God's relationship with His people from Revelation 21:2, 3, 7, 9, and 22:3-4.

[Q] How does this hope strengthen you in the present time?

Read the final paragraph in C. S. Lewis' book *The Last Battle*:

"The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning." And as He spoke He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all stories, and we can most truly say they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.

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## Pray

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