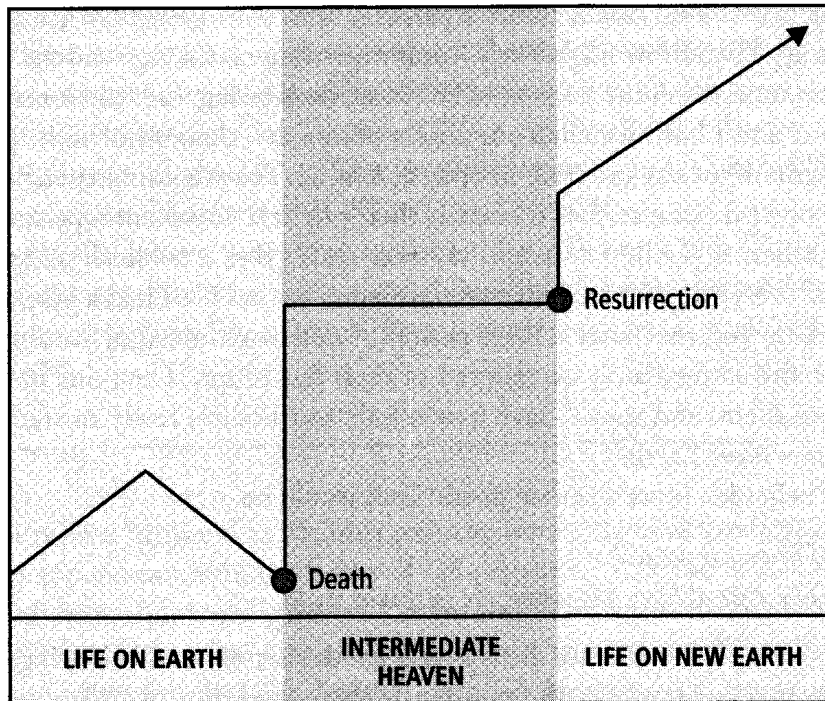


The BEST thing about Heaven
Part 5

How should we then live?

2/27/2011



John Eldredge in his book entitled, *Desire*, shares the following story:

“Once upon a time there lived a sea lion who had lost the sea. He lived in a country known as the barren lands. High on a plateau, far from any coast, it was a place so dry and dusty that it could only be called a desert. A kind of coarse grass grew in patches here and

there, and a few trees were scattered across the horizon. But mostly, it was dust. And sometimes wind, which together make on very thirsty. Of course, it must seem strange to you that such a beautiful creature should wind up in a desert at all. He was, mind you, a sea lion. But things like this do happen.

How the sea lion came to the barren lands, no one could remember. It all seemed so very long ago. So long, in fact, it appeared as though he had always been there. Not that he belonged in such an arid place. How could that be? He was, after all, a sea lion. But as you know, once you have lived so long in a certain spot, not matter how odd, you come to think of it as home.”

Like the sea lion, we were made for a specific place and that place is called Heaven. Even though we have come to think of this place as home, it is not our real home.

We were also made of a person and that person is Jesus. He is your true “soul-mate”.

I should be living with the constant awareness that:

I. Jesus is coming soon!

Three times in Revelation 22, He personally promises us that He will come again.

“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.” Rev 22:7

“He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Rev 22:20

The more that I focus on the fact that Jesus might return today the easier it is for me to live a godly life. If I believed that Jesus might be returning today how would I live differently?

A few bad ideas:
Quit my job

Sow all my wild oats
Run up my credit cards
Go live on a mountain top

A few good ideas:

(Or what would you be doing if you knew that Jesus was coming in 40 days?)

I would tell my family / friends

Spend time in prayer / word

Work to restore a relationship

Giving away my stuff

II. Jesus will hand out rewards based on what I did for Him.

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” Rev 22:12

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:17

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’
Matthew 25:40

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Matthew 25:45

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:3-10

“If you love me, keep my commands.” John 14:15

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” John 14:21

III. Jesus is God.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End...I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” Rev 22:13,16

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”
Rev 22:14

What would my life be like, if every moment of every day, I was able to keep in the foremost part of my little brain that:

Jesus is coming soon
Jesus will reward me and
Jesus is God.

Do you think I would be as quick to sin?
Or would I be more inclined to live the life of sacrifice and
obedience?

When we think of Jesus or long for Jesus, we are longing for
Heaven.

When we think of Heaven or long for Heaven, we are longing for
Jesus.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...”
Hebrews 12:2