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## The Eternal State

### Introduction

Many years ago I was shopping with my wife in the city where we live and I saw a picture of the Sydney Opera House in Australia. I got rather excited and said to Jean, this time tomorrow I will be there. Before going I looked up information about Sydney and could scarcely believe that within 24 hours I would be there. It is always exciting when going anywhere for the first time, and at times I wonder, what will the emotions be when it dawns on me that I am in Heaven, not for a brief visit but to be my eternal home.

- a) It is my understanding that while there are few verses which tell us about the eternal state, yet what we are told is very wonderful. If the saints could get a glimpse of Heaven there would be a great homesickness for it.
- b) The apostle Paul was taken up into the third heaven where he saw/heard things which were unexplainable in human language (2 Cor. 2:4), but in gathering the writings of the following verses, somewhat can be understood.
  - i) "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain." (Isa. 66:22)
  - ii) "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." (Isa. 65:17)
  - iii) "For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him." (1 Cor. 15:27)
  - iv) "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." (1 Cor. 15:28)
  - v) "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Pet. 3:13)
  - vi) "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." (Rev. 21:1)

### What will the environment of the New Heaven and earth be like?

- 1) It will be a place of perpetual holiness where God's ideal will begin its full fruition. (Rev. 5:5-14)
- 2) It will be a place of perpetual perfection of government. (Rev. 4:2)
- 3) It will be a government that is transparent, there will be nothing done in the shadows or undercover. (Rev. 4:5)
- 4) It will be a sphere where there will be the eternal functionings for the glory of God. (1 Cor. 15:28)
- 5) It will be a place without boundaries between believers. (Rev. 7:4, 9)

### What does it mean for God to be all in all? (1 Cor. 15:28)

God is holy, unspeakable perfection, and for God to be all in all necessitates that:

- a) God is the recognized "cause" of everything.
- b) God's glory is the ultimate goal for all activity and speech.
- c) God's ability is the enablement for all activity and speech.
- d) God's will is the director for all activity and speech in how it is done, when and where.
- e) God's character is manifested in all activity and speech.
- f) God's presence is a conscious reality to all living creation.
- i) God's power, timing and resources will be calmly enjoyed and all will know inward peace.

### What shall our bodies be like?

- 1) What shall we be like being in fellowship with God for all eternity? So many questions:
  - a) Will we need the Holy Spirit?
  - b) Will we see God?
  - c) Will we be embarrassed gazing on Him?

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- d) Will we be comfortable in those surrounding with such holy people and celestial personal?
- 2) John, in his epistle, informs us that “we shall be like him” (1 Jn. 3:2) and the context is morally. Paul, in Philippians, informs us by revelation that we shall have a body like His (Phil. 3:21) therefore, what is the present body of the Lord like?
- a) His is the body of a perfect human being, and when our bodies are changed they will be perfect. His was a body that could travel between earth and Heaven. The body of the Lord was not hindered by solids for when the disciples were in the upper room and the doors closed out of fear, the Lord suddenly appeared. Neither walls or doors could prevent Him. The tomb was never opened to let the Lord out but so that the disciples could enter in and see that where he lay was now an empty space. The body of the Lord was a body that could eat honeycomb. The Lord has a body that was impervious to sin and to disease, so will ours be.

#### Concluding thoughts

In the eternal state it will be a sphere where death, the source of sorrow, will be destroyed; grief, the expression of sorrow will cease; crying, the sound of sorrow will be silenced; and distress, the result of sorrow will be dispelled.

. . . . *Rowan Jennings*