



Revelation 20—part 3
Verses 4-6
From Sermon 3.3.19

Read *Revelation 20:4-6*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: These few verses reveal more symmetry in Revelation: 2 deaths, 2 resurrections, & 2 eternal destinies. Everyone ever conceived will be resurrected, given an immortal body, and life forever. The only question (answered in this life) is where. The redeemed will rule and reign with Christ for the 1000 years. What we do in this saved life determines our reward, position, and authority in His Millennial Kingdom.

What is the "first death" and why does everyone face it? The physical death of these earthly bodies we were born with. Everyone dies because everyone is infected with Adam's sin and because we all sin. See Romans 3:23, 5:12, & 6:23

What is the "second death"? Eternal punishment, torment, & separation from God = hell
See also *Revelation 20:14*

How does anyone avoid the "second death"? By placing their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, as He is revealed the Bible...God the Son who paid our full sin debt on the cross. See John 5:24 & Romans 8:1-2

From Sunday: How come God doesn't just take a new believer home to heaven the moment they are converted? Various answers. But include: God leaves us here as our proving ground for the future Kingdom. We are given a spiritual gift to be used in ministry of the Church. We are to be ambassadors of Christ in this now foreign land. God uses the Gospel to add to His family...we are to deliver it.

What would be wrong with an attitude that says "I'm content and satisfied just to make it into heaven. I don't need to exhaust myself in ministry, giving, or witnessing here. I don't need some big reward when I get there. I don't know that I want some big authority/responsibility in the Kingdom."? Various answers. I'm making my salvation about me and not the One who bought me. I want to serve Him just out of obedience, even if there were no future reward. I'm eternally grateful for what I've been saved from. A heart for ministry is an evidence of genuine salvation.

See *1 Corinthians 6:19-20 & James 2:17-18*

Is it okay to look forward to our reward? To work hard for a greater one? To seek Christ's commendation on that Day? Yes. Of course. This isn't our sole motivation and it's not a competition. But the eternal reward was historically one of the great motivators in Christian work. The Christian life is traditionally hard, painful, price, and life-threatening. Jesus is the Christian's King.

See *Philippians 1:21-23 & 2 Timothy 4:6-8*

What are ways you can better serve Christ in this life? Various answers. Finding my ministry in the local church. Helping wherever I'm needed. Caring for those in my church. Being a good and faithful witness in my life, language, and conduct. Putting others ahead of myself. Looking for opportunities to invite others to church or to hear my God story. Increasing realization that all I have is His and I'm just a temporary steward of my time, talents, and treasures.

Assignment: spend time in worship, this week, thanking God for delivering you from the second death