

97-30

"Heaven"

Advice for Earthbound Citizens of the New Jerusalem

21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (NIV)

1. Don't Get Too Attached Here (v.1)

A. *Our Earth is* _____

B. *Our Earth is* _____

2. Start Getting More Attached There (v.2)

A. *The New Jerusalem is* _____

B. *The New Jerusalem is* _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you to apply the principles to your life situation.

1. Jesus was very clear about where our "heart" and "minds" should be focused if we are Christians. See Colossians 3:1-4 and Matthew 6:19-21. How well would you say you have been doing at being obedient to this command? Realistically, how many minutes per week would you say your heart and mind are focused on "heaven"?

There are 10,080 minutes in every week. Calculate what percentage of your time you have had your mind set on your ultimate home. What does that percentage say about you?

2. Revelation 21 and the rest of the Bible couldn't be more clear that our world and everything in it is going to be burned up one day. If this would have been at the forefront of your mind over the past seven days what conflicts, arguments, worries, anxieties or concerns would have been handled differently or would have been non-existent? Be specific.
3. Some would object by saying that we cannot take these commands seriously or we would turn into irresponsible people here on earth. What would you say in response to this kind of objection? What do you think about the old saying, "he is so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good"?
4. What are some of the best and most enjoyable things about your life thus far?

Think for a moment about the fact that though we have all experienced many "good" things from God in this life, all of them have been flawed in some way. We have yet to experience a truly perfect gift from God—even our salvation is incomplete at this point (see Romans 8:22-25). What does it do to your state of mind and your attitude to contemplate the day when God sends this entirely perfect city down for us to inhabit? What do you think that will be like for you?

5. One of the results of all of this discussion about the new Jerusalem should be that we redouble our efforts to set our minds on the truly fulfilling and satisfying eternal things that God has prepared for us. How will you attempt to do that more from this point on and what difference do you think it might make in your life?