

I've Got a Home in Glory Land

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Father, this morning we want to just thank You Father, we just love You Lord, we just love You. Every moment we are conscious of the fact that we don't love You as we ought to love You. That our love for You is rubbish, Lord, compared to Your love for us. All we can say, Lord, would Your Spirit love You through us. We surrender ourselves; spirit, soul and body. We come to You boldly because You said that we can come. We plead the Blood that cleanses, as Your Word says, of every unrighteousness. The Spirit who sanctifies, to the ministry of the Word that cleanses. Speak to us, Lord, this morning, that even the little one who are seated here be able to receive. Today, as we read and sang, not to stop the children from coming to You. That out of the mouth of babes and suckling You have ordained wisdom. So I pray today that even the little ones will receive the message You have for us today. Speak to us, let our hearts, our minds, our ears be tuned to You, O Lord. For in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

We go to *Genesis 16:7-8*, in the context of what we have been looking at, wilderness, wandering, the world as a wilderness, life as a wilderness, we as pilgrims and sojourners. We are putting all these concept together.

Genesis 16:7-8

⁷Now the Angel of the LORD (that is Jesus) found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

Now we are not talking about Hagar or the wilderness. Today's message has nothing to do with any of that. But there is a question the Angel asked Hagar. Now this is just not for Hagar, but these are questions ask humanity these specific. Every question God utters in the Bible is for humanity. Every time you read the Bible you need to have a marker and mark every place where God asks a question. And ask God, 'What are You asking me? What is the right answer?' all the way through the Bible, Old Testament Malachi is full of questions. If then, what, where, full of questions. Questions are important and here there is a human-specific question. To everyone seated here, to everyone around the world God asks this question. Do you know where you are coming from? Do you know where you are going? Every child we believe, as God told Jeremiah – '*Even before you were formed in your mother's womb I knew you.*' So we know where every life comes from, where a child comes from. But it doesn't mean that therefore every child goes back to where he/she came from.

So the second part of the question – do you know where you are going? Are you sure of where you are going? One of the often questions that is asked is – why do you spend so much time preaching and teaching the Word of God? Seven days a week you do not leave us alone. Then once in a while you also come and ask us whether we listen to the message. We are half way down the seventh month. The question we need to ask is – where are you going? So we are not talking about Hagar, we are not talking about the wilderness, we are not talking about any of these things; we are just focusing on this question – do you know where you are going? *Colossians 3* puts it across this way,

Colossians 3:1-2

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

The Holy Spirit through Apostle Paul says that your heart and your mind should be set on another place where you are going. Everyday literally, even until this morning, we get requests that keep on coming, because we in the ministry and especially because my wife is a praying wife we keep getting these requests. This morning the news we get is that somebody has got cancer. All sicknesses are not the same. Another request was to pray for somebody who lost his wife. Depression, disease, death rules the world. We are facing a time in history like never before where the suicide rates among the teens in the highest ever recorded, when actually you should be full of life and looking forward to a vibrant future and having fun and all that. But they are just killing themselves.

And when I hear stuff like that, I tell my wife, it is shocking, honestly before I got saved and after salvation I can honestly stand before God and say, 'Never ever has that thought crossed my mind to kill myself. Never.' But today what you hear is death and suicide. What has happened? So the question is – do you know where you are coming from? Do you know where you are going? The question of eternity, the question of God, the question of Heaven and therefore the question of Hell. Religion has no answer.

See, if you take the Quran, if you manage to get an English translation of the Quran, the first text or the first Surah is an invocative prayer of a man. It is an invocative prayer of a man. That is how the Quran begins. There are primarily only three religions; Judio-Christianity I try to put it as one, then Islam and then Hinduism. Jainism, Buddhism are all basically off-shoots but there are primarily three religions. And if you go to Hinduism we finally narrow down to one primary text. The primary text they would say is the Geetha. And if you open the Geetha it begins with a rhetorical question by the Kauravas's father, the King Dhritarashtra asking his confidant and his charioteer Sanjaya (Sanjaya means victory) about what is going to happen between his sons and Pandu's sons, the Pandavas. It is a rhetorical question. That is how that religion's text begins. So the Bible begins completely differently – *In the beginning God...*

It is not an invocative prayer of a man, it is not a question one man is asking another man, the Bible begins so drastically, differently. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The first three chapters of the Bible, in Genesis (which means the beginning) go to the root of everything. And the last three chapters of the Bible go to the end of everything. There is no other book which conclusively gives you everything about the beginning and the end of man. All the other books have no clue. Only this Book (Bible) which the devil keeps man away from, it is the Book of Hope; incredible, real hope. And we have been doing these studies on Mondays and Fridays on the book of Revelation. And the book of Revelation begins with this incredible text – *this is the revelation of Jesus Christ about whom God gave to His servant*. This is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Then, chapter after chapter it unfolds the things that are going to happen.

It unfolds the state of every church. Like I said, seven is the number of God's completeness. So there are seven letters written to seven churches for all ages. For in these seven there is everything that God wants to tell about what God is looking for, what He finds right and what He finds wrong. Seven churches, the number of completeness. Like I said, if you read the epistles of Paul, Paul wrote many letters to many churches but only seven letters are preserved to seven churches. The other letters are written to individuals, why? It is because God says, those seven are enough for you to get ready for that Place. So the question – where are you going?

We all know where we came from. I hope we know where we came from. The question is, it doesn't matter where you came from. But it does matter where you are going. So if you look at the Bible and if you look at how God deals with humanity there are two compelling things that God does. First is to get everybody in. and Jesus will use words like the king, telling His servants, 'Go to the byways and the streets and compel them to come.' And Paul will use words like – the love of God constrains me and by the terror of the Lord I warn, because if you know the end it is terrifying. And things are so rapidly moving towards that. There is something that is stinking in the land of Denmark. (That is from Shakespeare's play Hamlet – there is something stinking in the land of Denmark). There is something happening behind the scenes that there is something that is speeding up their agenda of this one world government. But we know that when the one world order comes into being then Christ comes for His Church. You need to read and understand what Scripture is talking about in *Revelation 1:1*,

Revelation 1:1

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

When He uses the word 'shortly take place' it is using a different concept altogether. It says that when that happens it will be so fast that you will be caught by surprise. So a whole series of events are mentioned over there, God says, when it happens you will be shocked with the rapidity of things that will happen. You look at the warning Jesus Himself gave. Europe and America is burning under scorching heat, 66% of India is under floods and Korea is under floods. Floods on one side, wild fires in Canada which may go on the whole of the year, half the world under scorching heat and God says, 'All of creation is groaning.' Everything is screaming for our attention. And it will shortly take place.

And among the things that will shortly take place is the coming of Jesus Christ for His Church. Not the Second Coming, but the coming of Jesus Christ for the Church. The coming of Jesus Christ for the Church is the most rapid thing in human history. It is called the twinkling of the eye. It is a microsecond. It will be so fast that nobody will have time to get ready or to repent. Before you finish blinking your eye the Church will be gone. Just gone like that. So there are two compelling factors in our lives. One, prayer requests, all the prayer requests for unsaved loved ones, unsaved loved ones. What is that? Compelling desire for them to get in. and the other compelling desire is for those who have got in to prepare.

In three days time we have a wedding. There is so much preparation, even though it is a relatively small wedding and therefore a relatively a small wedding. There is so preparation that goes into it. Right? It is an event. The actual part of the event is less than 5 minutes – ‘Do you take this girl as your bride?’ I do! I do!’ they exchange rings and it is over. The actual thing is only 5 minutes. But the amount of preparation that goes for it. But I keep telling every couple that comes for counseling, including two couples this week. We spend so much time, energy and resources preparing for a wedding. Maximum it is 3 hours for the whole thing, including the reception 4 hours for the latecomers who come to eat the leftovers. But very few people actually prepare for marriage. Wedding is just a small event. Marriage is for life-time. And people prepare for the wedding and you have event planners, wedding planners, all these planners and then after they finish, we (pastors) are marriage planners.

People do not prepare for marriage. The entire Bible is written to the children of God so that we are prepared for eternity. We are prepared for eternity.

Revelation 21:1-2

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. (What do we see now? When we look up everything that we can see now will pass away. Nothing will remain. Everything that you are hoarding and hiding, everything that you are probably displaying, nothing is there. It is all gone and there is no more sea) ***Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

So the question is – is it a bride? Or is it a city? I used this example on Friday as I was teaching. If I say, ‘Hyderabad is a beautiful place.’ What am I talking about? The city. If I say, ‘Hyderabad is an evil city.’ What am I talking about? The people. Look at that word ‘prepared’. The first thing you see over there is that there are three places. New Heaven, new Earth and new City. There is a fourth place but we will look at it later. In verse 3,

³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

The first Person introduced over there is the Father. The Father is there. In verse 22,

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Jesus is there. And then when you come to *revelation 22:17*,

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

The Spirit and the Bride are there. So there is the Father, the Son, the Spirit and the Bride. So the question is – where are you going? Are you prepared for where you are going? If you say, ‘I am saved and I am going to heaven.’ Are you prepared? Are you prepared for where you are going? First be sure you now where you are going. Second, are you sure, are you prepared for where you are going? Because by the time the Bible ends there are actually only two destinations. *Revelation 19:20* introduces the second destination.

Revelation 19:20

²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

So there is another place. It is not hell, it is worse than hell. It is the lake of fire burning with brimstone. Brimstone is the old English term, in modern day we use the word Sulphur. When you come to chapter 20 and verse 10,

Revelation 20:10

¹⁰ ***The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are.*** (It is not 'were', they are. They were thrown in for a 1000 years ago before the devil is throw in a 1000 years later.) ***And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

And then when you read 13-15, the sea, now judgment is beginning. Jesus is seated on the Throne, skies and heavens all flee from His presence and then judgment begins. And when judgment begins,

¹³ ***The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.***

So, are they places? Or are they spirits? Both. They too are thrown. So all the dead whom you think about are not in the same place. There are millions and millions of souls who are in the sea and when Jesus says, 'Rise!' all the dead will rise from the sea. All the dead will come back from Hades, all the dead will come from death. This is the second resurrection, all stand before Him.

¹⁴ ***Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*** ¹⁵ ***And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.***

The most important thing is that it doesn't matter if you don't have an Adhaar card, you don't have a passport, you don't have a driver's license, you don't have your name in any book. But if your name is in that Book you are safe. If your name is not in that Book you are in big trouble. Big, big, trouble. And you cannot write there, He writes there, because it is the Lamb's Book of Life. You cannot be too good to be in that book, you cannot be too bad to be in that book; you have to believe, you have to repent and believe and He writes your name there. That is the most important thing, that your name is there. In verse 10,

¹⁰ ***The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

This is something which is unceasing. Fire and brimstone. I'm not going to speak about hell today, you can relax,

Mark 9:48

⁴⁸ ***where 'Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'***

In the Greek New Testament, in the original language, there are four terms for hell, the place where the dead go. And one of the name is what is called Gehenna. Now you know that during the time of wicked kings of Israel and Judah, the idolatry and the child sacrifices and all these took place. But when Josiah became king, he brought radical reform and he took all those things and dumped it outside Jerusalem and there the fire was lit. That was also the place where the garbage was lit. So the fire there never went out. So God is using an illustration where the Jewish public understands. Gehenna. What is Gehenna? This is where the garbage comes and this is where all the dead bodies are thrown, not of human beings, but the animals, because the carcasses are plenty, because sacrifices are going on, remember the Jewish religion. So the dead bodies of animals and fire constantly burning and God says, 'You know what? When do worms die? Worms die when their host dies. We are the hosts and the worms live in us. If you die unless the worm finds another body the worm will die.

You go into a place (hell) where neither the host nor the fuel dies. So the worms are continuously fed. The fire never goes out. You will say, what kind of an illustration is this? I don't know. But I will tell you, we preached on this a long time ago. All you googlers, if you Google and search you will get the pictures for what is called hydrothermal worms, at the bottom of the sea near the vents. They survive at a temperature of 360 degree. Water boils at 100. Modern science says at the core of the earth which is boiling hot almost 90% is sulphur. And God wrote this 2000 years ago before science had no clue that it is brimstone and that there are worms that don't die in that heat and your body will be forever eaten. Do you know something? There is fire burning but there is no light. It is absolute, total, physical, moral, spiritual darkness because God, for the first time, will remove His complete presence from that place.

Now we need to understand the urgency of the Gospel, why for 2000 years men and women have risked their lives, left their homes, left their careers, went to the ends of the world, died in the process to spread this Gospel because this is the heart of God that no man should go there. And there is only one way. There is no other way. There is only one way and the way is the Man Jesus. There is no other way. And you cannot take chances with it. Don't be so casual, 'Oh I accepted Jesus.' The question is not whether you accepted Jesus, the question is whether Jesus accepted you. 'Oh, I accepted Jesus.' Who asked you to accept Jesus? Did Jesus accept you? Has the Spirit of God come in you? Is the Spirit of God working in you so that you know where you are going?

Don't fool around with this question. We who live in the last days, the Bible says, you don't have time; things will happen so rapidly. And in these last days you look at what people are speaking openly, like Charles Schwab and all with world economics, of what they are planning to do with chips and control humanity, what they are saying and you will understand the meaning – *if God did not shorten those days even the elect will not make it*. You will not be able to make a decision; it will be gone from your hands, they are making the decisions and you become like robots. That is what nobody understood – *anyone who took the mark of the beast is condemned forever*. The question is – what causes a person to take that mark? Millions upon millions will take that mark. Everything is being set for it. The Bible is telling us – be careful, be careful.

So the simple question is – there are only two broad classifications, where are you going? Heaven or Hell? And the nature of both is forever and ever,

Revelation 20:10

¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 22:5

⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

The nature of both is forever and ever. It is eternal, there is no exit there. In Hell there is no exit. There is only entry. And those who were in the demonic and wrote those songs who were high on drugs and we sang when we were young, they knew what they were talking about – 'You can always check in but you can never check out.' That is why those people who outwardly appear as great people but secretly serve the devil and his agenda, they called their group as a 'Circle' because you cannot get out of the circle. That is why it is called a circle, you cannot get out of the circle. The circle is getting bigger and bigger and bigger and people are being pulled into it to prepare this world – a New World Order. The anti-Christ is coming. Things which don't even bother them.

Last week the news is here – the American President has asked for the reservists to be organized and the whole main stream media won't even report on it because the last time the reserve service was called up was during the Iraq war. Reservists are being called up to start moving to Europe, to the Russian Ukrainian border. They are planning for something for which we are not even prepared. Only God can stop these things, that is where the Church comes in, pray. Pray – mercy Lord, mercy, mercy. What are we praying for? Not for a good time on earth, but for people to cross over. Pray that people will cross over. When all these compelling situations happen let them look up and cry, 'Lord Jesus have mercy.' For there is one Name given under the heavens, only one Name.

So it is a very sobering thought. You should ask, we all should ask ourselves – do you know where you are going? Are you sure? Why do we read the wedding bands? Are you sure you want to go ahead with this? Usually in traditional churches, during the service, last minute final call, 'If anybody objects stand up now or forever hold your tongue.' Are you sure you know where you are going? Don't look at outward things; outward things are irrelevant if the inward witness is not there. 'I go to church regularly.' Don't worry every Pharisee went. 'I tithe regularly,' they did better than you, 'I read my Bible,' they do more than you. 'I pray,' they prayed. The question is about the witness of the Spirit of God. It is the witness of the Spirit of God, who from within tells you, "You are My child." And he is constantly fighting you, because He envies intensely for you. Because once the Spirit of God comes in what He is trying to do is to prepare you and me for that place. So Solomon in *Ecclesiastes* says,

Ecclesiastes 3:11

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

He has done something in man, not in animals, not in reptiles, not in birds, not in any other creature; only in man. What did He do? He put eternity in our hearts. That is why Warren Wiersbe said, 'Heaven is not a destination, it is a motivation.' Why? It is because eternity has been put in our hearts. That is why in simple English, *Colossians 3:2* says,

Colossians 3:2

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

In simple English - think Heaven. *As a man thinketh so is he.* Let us be honest, how many minutes a day or a week do you actually think about heaven? Religion uses a term called 'after life'. So if there is a term called after life, I want to use the term 'after place'. After life in the after place. If you look at Jyothi, Jyothi is preparing in her mind her house. She has her own dream, she is preparing, short term plans and long term plans are there. The curtains, the bed sheets, the pillow covers. You should, otherwise it is just a house, you cannot call it a home. Home is a prepared place, house is where Bachelors live. Whenever I visited the Bachelors without warning their house was a pigsty. With warning all you had to do is just lift the bed sheets and everything is under the bed. In *2 Corinthians 12* Apostle Paul, (we believe it is he talking about himself) had an extraordinary experience,

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

¹It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

He talks about an experience, probably Paul himself had, 14 years ago. So he says, in the body or out of the body I am not sure. I only know that I had an experience. And he uses two terms. One term he uses in verse 2 is third heaven. Another word he uses is the word paradise. So there is a place called third heaven and in third heaven there is a place called paradise. Paradise is from the old, original Persian term called 'pairi-daêza-' which actually means garden. It actually means garden. So Paradise, people believe, is the Garden of Eden. Theologians also believe that this 14 years ago incident happened during the time when Paul was travelling and they stoned him to death and then the Apostles gathered and he came back to life, and when he died he had this experience. Out of the body or in the spirit we do not know but he had an experience where he went. It had such a profound influence on him his later statements are all different. In *Philippians 1:21* he will say,

Philippians 1:21

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

How does death become gain? It is because he had such a radical vision of heaven and suddenly he realized that death is actually gain. You see, when Moses was asked to build the Tabernacle in the Old Covenant, one of the things that he was told was – listen carefully and do it carefully because what you are doing are types which are in Heaven. The original is in Heaven, you are just making a replica here, so be very careful. Don't make your own kind, the replica should depict what is there in Heaven.

Colossians 2:16-17

¹⁶ So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷ which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

So there is a shadow. All of you look in the mirror, you have actually looked at a shadow; the substance is what you will have later. This is not what is real. I am looking at shadows. This is not your permanent feature. This is not what anyone who is saved is going to look like. If you are not saved you will look like this, even worse. But if you are saved you will definitely look better than this. This is just a shadow. Everything that you are looking around is just a shadow. The reality is in Heaven. In *2 Corinthians 5:16-17*,

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

He says, 'We have seen Christ in the flesh but even that was a shadow.' That is why John, who leaned on Christ's chest at the last supper, who was closest to Him, when he saw a tiny revelation of what Jesus is like, (as we are looking at in the Revelation Bible studies) it is written, 'I fell like one dead at His feet.' But that is not the Jesus who walked on earth. It was just a shadow. So he says, that was just a shadow, I don't want to know that shadow, I want to know the real one. The real one, the substance.

So there are copies and there are originals. Shadow and substance. And when we study the Word of God we will see that.

Genesis 1:1

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Revelation 21:1

¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Do you see that? In *Genesis 1:1* God created the heavens and the earth. In *Revelation 21* that is gone. The whole thing is gone. This is the shadow land, for shadow people. The substance comes and there is a new set of people over there. They have changed.

Genesis 1:4-5

⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Revelation 22:5

⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

In the Old Creation there is day and there is night. That is why you are caught like this. There is no night there in the New Creation. Only day, no night.

Genesis 1:16

¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

Revelation 21:23

²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.
There is no sun, there is no moon.

Genesis 1:10

¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Revelation 21:1

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

In Genesis 3:14-18 the curse comes on Satan, on the serpent, on soil, pregnancy, marriage, everything is cursed.

Genesis 3:14-18

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." ¹⁶To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

Revelation 22:3

³And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

Genesis 3:19

¹⁹In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." What is that? Death.

Revelation 21:4

⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." There is no more death.

Genesis 3:24

²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Revelation 22:14

¹⁴Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. He is brought back to the City and to the Tree of Life.

Genesis 3:17

¹⁷Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

You have sorrow, you have pain, you have all those things.

Revelation 21:4

⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

So it is not like what we think, because we are so fascinated with this old creation that is passing away and we waste most of our time thinking about it. Even when we think about our future we are thinking about a future, on a shadow that is passing away and not on the eternal that is coming. The Bible says – how do you fight? We have this word 'resist'. How do you resist? When sorrow and grief and death and famine and depression and discouragement all these things playing on the earth, how do you resist the devil? It is by thinking on things that are above, thinking on things that are coming, because we are being prepared. So in *John 3* Jesus tells Nicodemus,

John 3:5-6

⁵ *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

You cannot, don't even try. You will not see, you will not understand, you cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. you have to be born from above, by the Spirit, through the Spirit, you have to be born. ⁶ ***That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*** It is just like you take a stone, take it as high as you want, you release it and it comes down. You take a balloon, fill it with helium, take it as low as you want, you release it and it goes up, because what is inside is different, flesh is flesh it will go down. Spirit is Spirit it will go up. That is the proof. Where your mind is that is where your heart is. If your heart and mind is flesh it is always going down. But if you have been born of the Spirit and if you are allowing the Spirit of speak to you and allowing the spirit to lead you the Spirit is always leading you up. He is keeping your mind on that – that is where you are going, I am preparing you. 'Why is this happening to me?' because you are being prepared for that place. 'Why is this happening to me?' because you have to get rid of this out of your mind and out of your life because this does not fit in there. That is why questions matter.

Like I said, the Bible is full of questions, the first words recorded about Jesus Christ is a question, right? He is lost according to His parents, but found according to Him. Three days later they find Him and say, 'Son, how could You do this to us?' His first question – why are you seeking Me? You were seeking Me because your heart and mind was below. If your heart and mind were above you would have just prayed, 'O Lord, where is Your Son?' He would have told you that I am at His business. Didn't you know that I was at My Father's business. Why were you so worried and looking for Me everywhere? It is because your heart and mind was at the wrong place.

Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the whole world. Two people start following Him. He turns around and asks, "What are you seeking?" and they, 'Lord, where do You stay?' He said, "Come and see." And they stayed with Him that day.

So God is asking this question to Hagar – where are you going? And God is asking us this question, all of us including me – do you know where you are going? These things which you do, these things on which you spend so much time and effort and energy, in which way is it helping you? Are you going to take this there? Is this actually becoming a hindrance? If you read both chapters 21 and 22 there is a list of things, the kind of people who will never enter into that city. So we have to be careful. They will not enter, it is written. It is not 'free entry'; it is restricted entry. So we have to be careful, because God is preparing us.

1 Corinthians 15:50

⁵⁰ *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.*

Flesh and blood won't inherit the Kingdom of God. So we saw Solomon saying, God has put eternity in every heart. Now listen carefully,

Psalms 16:11

¹¹ *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

There are two words used here, one is the word called 'Joy' and the other is 'Pleasure'. Now we will use a term which is there in English, it is there in economic and in Science, it is a common word in commerce, everywhere you have it. What does it actually mean? We used the words like primary, secondary and we use the word called derivative like you have in Math. God has put eternity in our hearts. *Genesis 1:26* says, we, not animals nor birds nor reptiles, nothing else, but we, man was made in the image of God. So there is something that is primary, and there is something that is derivative. So the primary is God; that is why it is written – *in the beginning God*. Before the beginning of anything God was always there, from everlasting to everlasting. Why are flowers beautiful? Because God is beautiful. So the beauty of the flower is derivative. Why are puppies cute? Because God is cute. If God is not cute puppies won't be cute. Why is sports fun? Because God is fun. Why is study and hard work rewarded? It is because God rewards. Why is work fulfilling? It is because God is fulfilling.

Everything derives its meaning only if it is true in God. Otherwise it is not true. That is why animals who are made not made in the image of God they do not have these derivative functions. You don't see a dog looking at a flower and then biting it and taking it to its female partner, because it never marries. There is nothing derivative happening over there. For they do not have an internal, spiritual connection with the primary. We are made in God's image, God put eternity into our hearts, so the thing is that we are so stuck with the derivative without releasing that the primary is God - ***In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*** Every joy I experience comes from You and because You are the God of joy and in You there is fullness. Every pleasure (remember long ago Cyril spoke about it, man is wired for pleasure). Why do you chew gum? It is because it gives you pleasure in your jaws. And if it gets stuck in your teeth and you take it out it gives you another kind of pleasure. We are wired for pleasure. You know why? It is because it is derivative. That is why man is the only creature on earth who can eat 365 days in a year and as many times a day as he wants. Because he is not eating for sustenance unlike the other creatures; he is eating for pleasure.

Animals mate only in their seasons, humans have no seasons. And this is how the enemy sets up the derivative at the cost of the eternal. Young men who are sitting over here, those of you who drink quietly and secretly, why do you drink? It is derivative, because the drinking gives you are high, you know why? It is because God is high. But it is the wrong way; it leads you to death. Why do you smoke marijuana? Why are you on drugs? Because you are going for a derivative of a pleasure which is warped by the enemy so that you will never enter into the fullness which God offers, because He put eternity into our hearts. Why do human beings alone get married and no other creature does? It is because it is a derivative of who God is; He is married to Israel and Christ will be married to the Church. It is all derivative. Why is the question of God so hotly debated only among human beings and never under any other creatures? It is because it is derivative – we were made in His image. Why is the question of sexuality being hotly debated among humans and no animal is wasting their time discussing sexuality? It is because He made us male and female according to His image. Why is gender confusion only among humans and no animal is wasting its time over it? It is because we are made in His image, both masculine and feminine. Everything is derivative.

The devil has created nothing, but what he does it that he takes what God has created and he knows that we are wired for pleasure and wired for joy and he warps it, and he destroys it. And that is where we have to be careful. God says, 'This is just a shadow. The substance is up there. So don't get fooled. What the devil will do is that he will take you away from Me who is the source of everything and get you caught in the derivatives and mess up your life.' That is why I always tell the young people – work hard! If you can get good marks, but even if you don't get great marks work hard. Why? You are not going to take your marks to Heaven but you are going to take your work ethic to Heaven. You are not going to take your marks, nobody's marks sheet is going to be there. But whether you are a hard worker or a lazy worker will decide your position in Heaven.

All these things that we talk about and the world talks, the world and the church do not talk in the same wavelength. Because the Church, the real Church should be preparing the people for Heaven and spending their time and energy on it. The way we look at our children and the way they look at their children are not the same. We dedicate our children for the glory of God, not for the glory of the world. So it is not academic excellence, which God gives, praise be to God, but how does she reach there? It is not the beauty of the face, but it is the beauty of a meek and a quiet spirit which is of great value in the eyes of God. We are looking at what is eternal, because pleasures and joy in God's presence is forever.

How do you know that something in you is of God? It is forever. How do you know that it is not of God? It just goes. Why? Because it is not forever, it does not have the power to sustain it, because it is not God. It is a derivative whose origin is not of God, it is off the flesh and it is of the world. Think about it, you spend money on something which you could not afford, bought new clothes and all that and you felt so good for a day and then? You felt so great on your wedding day. What about the marriage? That is why only in the Kingdom of God we say marriage should be like wine – the older it gets the better it becomes. Why? It is because it is a derivative of something that is eternal. Otherwise it gets worse, because you are not looking at the eternal and trying to resolve through your differences because now you took the Scripture and you are using it to fight each other – the two shall become one, but which one? Sammy? Jyothi? Which one? That One (Jesus Christ). So both are changing, why, because they need to realize 'I need to change, both of us need to change because we are being conformed to that One who is eternal.'

Why was a young man, Daniel, able to say, 'No' in Babylon? It is because he knew that this derivative that is spread before him is not connected to the eternal, actually it is against the eternal. 'In the temporal it looks good, but it is not eternal. In the long run it will cost me.' So one sin came in and man was cut off from God, that was the first thing that happened. When man was cut off from God, the secondary became primary. Now we are just living for pleasure. We are not living for God who is the source of pleasure, we took God out of the picture and now we are living for pleasure. Depending upon our capacity.

So there is this man who has been given the most capacity under the sun, therefore he tried everything under the sun and how did he end up? He went after this with full force, with full vigor and came back empty, he went after that, empty, he went after that and empty. But everything that you are running after is not primarily wrong in itself but it is just a derivative. Why is it empty? It is because you have been cut off from God. That is why it is empty. Not that wisdom is empty, but wisdom without God is empty. We read the Word and we study it, we read the Word and we study it and we never get tired because it is a derivative, not the Word of God but we are looking for the God of the Word. But when we did our PhD we got tired, pastor Vijay do you remember your PhD days? You don't even want to remember it. Why? Because old things have passed away, behold I have made all things new. Are we getting the picture? Young people? Young children?

That is what God is telling us. We had a child dedication and we read from *Deuteronomy 6*, God says, you know what, "Love Me with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your strength because I am the source. When you walk with your children, when you sit down with your children, when you walk with them, when you lie down, when you stand up don't let them focus on the derivative, let them focus on the source so that they will enjoy the derivative." When you walk on the streets and our little lanes, you are playing football with a child there is so much pleasure in playing foot ball, badminton, racing, cycling and all that, you need to tell them – you know what? Do you know why you find pleasure? Because of God. That is the reason. It is your birthday, dogs don't celebrate birthdays, cats don't celebrate birthdays. If you celebrate your pet's birthday it is you who is celebrating and the cat gets an extra fish but it doesn't know why it got an extra fish. But when you celebrate your child's birthday you look at the joy of the child. You have even more joy, the child forgets but you don't forget. Why? It is because the derivative is from God.

When a sinner repents and gets into the Kingdom of God there are fireworks in Heaven, there is so much joy. So you need to understand – where am I going? I am going to a place where first You (God) are there – *in Your presence there is fullness of joy and at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore*. That is how we started. Heaven is a place but the place will have no meaning without a person. So you look at houses, we as pastors we have the privilege of visiting all houses. I have visited the poorest of poorest houses on earth, I have visited very rich houses, I ate here and I ate there in the CM's house in Hyderabad. I had lunch and I have eaten in a small little house. But you know this is a home and that is a house with all the five star trappings. And here it is just newspaper pasted on cardboard or wooden planks to make the walls. But you know what made this house different? It is the persons, you know there is love there, you know there is peace there. The other house has everything but they do not have the presence. These people hardly have anything but there is the Presence. Where does your joy come from? Where does your pleasure come from? Does it come from the presence?

Anybody can build a house, but it takes God to build a home. Homes don't need many things, it is the people. So before you think or talk about a place we have to talk about the Person. In His Presence there is fullness of joy. It is His presence. It is not the problem, it is the presence. Moses had many problems than any man could have in his life; trying to take 600,000 rebellious stiff-necked people through the wilderness, from clothing to water to food to everything he had to take care of it. And God said, "My Presence shall go with you and you shall have rest." He got so fascinated with the presence of God that when God said, "I will send an Angel and drive out the enemy." Moses said, "If Your Presence does not go with us I don't want to go from here. Wilderness is home because of Your Presence."

So to all married husbands and wives, make your home full of presence. If you want your husband to come back home it has to be a home. Otherwise he will make his office his home. It is the presence. Children bring joy into the house. Be sure that they bring joy, it is the presence. Not all children, but all children should bring joy. And Jesus loved children. The disciples looked at them as a burden and Jesus was greatly displeased, He said, "Don't stop the children." He was like, 'In the midst of all these problems they bring Me joy.' The Bible says that He took them in His arms and He blessed

them. Ask these questions, because the closest to Heaven on earth we can create is home, not office. That is why the devil fights individuals, fights marriages, fights homes. He doesn't fight offices, have you noticed? He doesn't fight offices, he says, 'Work there and sit there as long as you want I will also leave you alone. As long as you don't go home.' I don't know if you read John Donne, he was a British English poet. He said, 'No man ever saw God and lived yet I shall not live till I see God.'

Think about these people and their words – no man ever saw God and lived, yet I shall not live till I see God. Paul's words – 'For me to live is Christ, for me to die is gain.'

2 Corinthians 5:1-4

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

So when the Bible talks about a city or a house it talks about two levels of meaning; one, your body is your house in which your soul lives. And then your body will also get another house. So there are two houses, one is your body. Once you are saved and start moving into the understanding of where you are going and who you are going to, in this we groan,

²For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, are you understanding it? I'm not sure whether you are getting it. The nature of the fallen man's body is restricted. Even if you lie eating and you are a foodie, after sometime you want to throw up and you throw up. Even if you are a workaholic, after sometime you fall asleep on the desk. Even if you love your wife too much you still get tired of her. And even if you love your husband so much you still want him to get out. Did you see that? The nature of the old body. ³if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. ⁴For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

So he talks about this body as being mortal and the other body is what actually contains life. When you go to buy your fish for your little aquariums they give you in a plastic cover, right? Imagine you take that fish and release it into the river it swims away so fast and it is gone. That is how our spirit and soul will be when it is released from this body into the other realm. That is life. Because in this body and what God has for you everything is restricted, everything is limited and the devil knows that so he takes people down the wrong path and he destroys them, because he hates man with pure hatred, because God loves man.

1 Corinthians 15:38-43

³⁸But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. This is talking about post resurrection when you go to heaven, if you happen to go to heaven. When that Day comes make sure you are going.

³⁹All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. Now he is moving from one level to the next level. ***⁴⁰There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.***

So you know what he is saying, it is sown in corruption but it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor but it is raised up in glory.

⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. You will never be tired. You will never get tired in Heaven, there is no sweat. There is no tiredness. I have a feeling that you will never sleep, with the new body you will not need sleep. The God of Israel neither sleeps nor slumbers. It is completely different.

In hell it is the other way. You will long to sleep but you cannot sleep. You will be tormented day and night. You will be thirsty forever but not a drop. You will be hungry forever but not a morsel. This is the truth of God's Word.

Luke 24:39-43

³⁹Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

⁴⁰ ***When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.*** So we are seeing a prototype of the resurrection body we are going to get. He says, "Touch Me, I am not a disembodied spirit floating around. Touch Me." He is the first born of the dead, His body is what we are going to get. He says, "Touch Me, I have bones, I have flesh." ⁴¹ ***But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"*** ⁴² ***So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.*** ⁴³ ***And He took it and ate in their presence.***

John 20:19

¹⁹ ***Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."***

So you see two different things, He says, "Touch Me, you can see bones and flesh. Give Me some fish and honey comb and I will eat." So on one level the nature seems to be the same, but on the other level He just walks through shut doors. So the body is not the same though it may look similar. You are not constrained by space or time or anything. All the limitations of this body, limitations as we don't even know. They are all taken out. Sickness, weakness, mobility, all is gone. Immobility everything is gone.

1 John 3:2

² ***Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.***

We shall be like Him. So Eden was not destroyed or lost, what was lost was man's ability to enjoy Eden. That is why we will get a new body, because the place where we are going this old body will be such a misfit. It is like going to Sweden or Norway. We will look like very short people; everyone, even the ladies are 6.1 – 6.2 feet, but if you go to Nepal you will feel tall, because everyone there is 5.1-5.2. that is why in the Indian army and the British army the only exception regarding height is for the Gurkha regiment, because they are war like but they are short. So this body will be completely misfit in the place where we are going. We don't want to go there with this body, this body is good for hell, but terrible for Heaven.

Revelation 21:1-2

¹ ***Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*** ² ***Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.***

I am just showing you little parts, that is why I wanted the little children here. You go to verses 15-17, the City (not the Bride) is described. Now listen to the City being described.

Revelation 21:15-17

¹⁵ ***And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.*** ¹⁶ ***The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.*** ¹⁷ ***Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.***

So the City is a cube. Length – breadth – height. What is the length of the City? 1,500 miles. What is the breadth of the City? 1,500 miles. What is the height of the City? 1,500 miles. Do you know how tall Burj Khalifa is? 820 meters. Less than a mile, man's greatest accomplishment upwards is less than a mile. Do you know the highest height at which a commercial plane can fly? It is 6-8 miles. What is the height of the City? 1500 miles. Do you know the City God is building for you? Do you know how big it is? It is beyond our imagination. It is given in detail. *Revelation 21-22* gives you in detail the size of the City. That is only one part because there is Heaven, there is this City and there is Earth. The City will come down from Heaven and it seems to be stopping over Earth; hovering over there. Going up 1500 miles, dazzling like glass, the streets are transparent gold. How can this body fit in that City? You can't even walk there.

That is why these people understand and they are groaning in this body to be released, because they are looking at what is happening. And here people are naming and claiming for this city called Babylon and saints are groaning to be released to go to that City. Do you know where you are going? It is mind-boggling.

Revelation 21:1

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Do you know, more than 60% of earth's surface is covered by sea? So what is the New Earth where there is no sea? Think about. Only 30-35% of earth is land. The rest is sea. Of that 30% of land, most of it cannot be inhabited; either it is mountains or deserts or wilderness. So the population is stuck into few parts. But in the New Earth there is no sea, everything changes. That is why I wanted the children to sit here because I want them to be happy to know where they are going. They will be happy because they want to go there. So when Jesus uses a term in *John 14:1-3*,

John 14:1-3

¹Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

When we hear about this place, we will be like, 'What a place!' what a place we are going to! But there is myself and the place. What makes a place special is not His logistics, nor His dimensions, but it is because of the Person. But the place itself is mind-blowing. If you look at *Revelation 21:2*,

Revelation 21:2

²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

We see New Jerusalem coming out of Heaven down to Earth. It is coming down.

By the way we heard about the measurement of the wall, the breadth of the wall. The breadth of the wall in modern translation is 218 feet. The walls of the City of New Jerusalem are 218 feet thick. Each gate is one pearl. And the street of the City is pure gold.

Revelation 21:21-27

²¹The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. ²²But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. We don't go to church; we live in Church. No more do we go to church; we live in Church. The City is the Temple and the Temple is the City. And God and Jesus is the light. ²³The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. That means Earth is also populated. Populated by who we do not know. All are saved, but I keep on telling you all saved do not go to the same place. If so God is not just, He is not righteous. That is what the democrats want to do in America – everybody has to get the same marks. It doesn't work like that. Imagine you all go to school, one student studies 6 days a week, another doesn't even go to the class and both of them get the same marks. You would say that it is not fair. So there are people in the earth, there are kings on earth. Then there are people in that City. So it is not the same. There is a bride, there are people in the wedding super of the Lamb. And John the Baptist said, 'My joy is that of the Bridegroom's friends.' So all kinds of categories are there. And God says, 'Now that you are saved, prepared.' Because the ultimate preparation is to be the Bride. That is why, think Heaven. ²⁵Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

That is why we fight certain things in life so that we do not face 'No Entry'.

Matthew 8:11

¹¹ And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

There are two things here: one, it is the wedding feast of the Lamb. That means, Stanley you may be out of job; the cuisine is out of this world. There is a lot of feasting in Heaven. You don't have to worry about obesity, you don't have to worry about dysentery. There is a lot of eating in Heaven. there is food in Heaven.

Revelation 19:9

⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

There is eating. Now I do not know how it is going to be but I know no human mind, no chef on earth, under the sun has ever conceived a menu like that. I do not understand how God will do it but I know that God will do it.

Philippians 3:21

²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

This word 'lowly body' in other translations uses the words 'body of humiliation'. The body of humiliation. So it doesn't matter who you are, prince or popper, it is a body of humiliation. You can eat the best cuisine, in the most expensive restaurant in the world, but after sometime you will run to the loo, because the natural system, after the fall, works like that. After you eat, it has to be ejected. You drink the most expensive wine, in the most expensive restaurant a little later you are running to the loo. What happened? It is because it is the body of humiliation. You work a little and you start sweating. I do believe that in eternity all these are eliminated. It is not there. It won't be a humiliation, we are going to get a glorious body. There is no humiliation. There are no restrooms. If you ever go to school in Heaven, little children, you will not be able to excuse yourself to the bathroom, because there is no peeing or pooping. It is a different body. No disease, no sickness, no obesity, no anemia, no anorexia, nothing. For when you think about these things the Bible says that when you are going through, when you are going through tests, keep your mind on Him. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 very powerful verse of people who have understood where we are going,

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We do not lose heart, because the inward man is being prepared for another body in another place. Inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ ***For our light affliction, which is but for a moment***, what is he talking about? All the sufferings you face in life is very light. How is it light? It is light only in comparison to the eternal weight of glory. Eternal weight meaning heavy weight of glory. You have to look at your afflictions as light, otherwise you will not survive. Why do people get depressed? Why do people get discouraged? It is because they do not have hope of where there are going. And what they are going to get into. If you really realize – 'I that I go through in life is momentary,' your 80 years of life is just momentary compared to eternity. So let us say for 80 years, all your life it was suffering, it is just for a moment. When you realize that it causes the affliction to be light. Eternal weight of glory.

That is why all the ancient saints kept their minds on things above. And therefore they were of great earthly good. They kept their mind on things above – 'Ah! This is nothing. This is nothing, that is nothing. Because I know what I am going to get, I know where I am going.'

¹⁸ ***while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.*** Revelation 21 and 22 unfolds; gives us a glimpse of things which are not seen in terms of symbols, because like I said, human language has no words. There are a lot of musicians over here, let me tell you, music won't be the same in Heaven. it cannot be same in

Heaven because in music there are two things, one – there is time and the other is beat. There is no time in Heaven, so how do you play your music? Music will be completely different. What we hear as music maybe cacophony in Heaven. It will be a completely different ball game altogether, because if you read the book of Revelation there is a lot of singing taking place. All are singing, but all cannot sing all the songs. And then there is one set of people alone who can sing certain songs. So there is a lot of singing. Why? When do people sing? When they are happy. 'If you are happy and you now it...' there will be a lot of singing. And the songs will be something that we can't comprehend now. The beat will be different the music will be different because there is no time. Everything0 will be different in Heaven. in the light of that we look around and we realize – what I need to do is take as many with me as possible. Your prayer life changes, your work life changes, you will say, 'Lord, it doesn't matter what job You give me, give me a job where I can witness. Where I can be a witness to get people in. because whatever I lose it is nothing compared to what is waiting for me on the other side.

Where are we going?

Revelation 2:7

⁷“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

From the tree of life. This is from where Adam and Eve were cast out and Cherubim with flaming swords were out lest he go and eat from the Tree of Life. Now God says, 'I give it to you.'

Revelation 22:2

²In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

How can a tree be on either side of the river? So it is not talking about one tree, when you say, 'Mango tree' it is not talking about one mango tree; it is talking about trees which bear mangoes. So look at it - ***on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*** So those who got saved and they are on the earth, but did not overcome, they are still getting better and better; they are being healed. Life is not like what we think, we need to keep our minds on eternity and where we are going.

1 Corinthians 13:9-12

⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Do you know what it means? It is not talking about your appetites; it is talking about your mind. Our minds won't be like what you are thinking about now. So many things we cannot comprehend at all because our minds don't have the capacity to comprehend. God says, 'In that life restrictions over your mind are taken out and what you know in part you will know in full.' And that is also one of the reasons in fellowships in Heaven there are no misunderstandings. There will only be understanding. Because everybody sees everything0 and there is no misunderstanding. Do you know why the word 'misunderstanding' comes? It is because you don't understand. So there will be perfect fellowship because there will be no misunderstanding. The limits over your mind will be taken off. There are people who are interested in arts, there are people who are interested in sports, let us say Praneeth loves sports; he loves cricket. Can you imagine how he will play cricket there? People who love sports, people who love eating, people who love music, people who love anything prepare for Heaven and leave the waste of the earth, because that is where you will actually learn to love it; all restrictions are taken off. No restrictions, absolutely no restrictions.

You do not know, that is how the devil fools you. The devil fools young people. Even now some of your minds are not here, you are already gone, do you know why? It is because he has caught your mind. If he cannot stop you from getting into the Kingdom, he will see to it that you end up there as nobody. The Bible says that your works will go through the

fire and some will just come with their salvation and nothing else. And this is the trap. That is why all these teachings in the Bible, you read from *Romans 1 to Revelation 22:21* do you know what it is all about? It is either about salvation or preparation for Heaven. It is nothing about earth. Nothing is there about earth; everything is about preparation for Heaven and for life eternity. And that is the clue – how do you know that you are saved? How do you know that Sammy and Jyothi are getting married? Look at their preparation that is how you know that you are getting married. All kinds of preparation; mental preparation, there is a planning and preparation for the wedding, there is a preparation of an apartment, there is a preparation utensils and utilities, there is a preparation at every level. How do you know you are going to Heaven? ‘Oh because one day I lifted my hands and said, Lord Jesus come into my heart’ is that preparation?

How do you know where you are going? How do you know you are going someplace? When you are planning to travel, do you just suddenly travel? Or do you prepare? Like when I travel, when I go to different places I look at a place, I check, okay I am going to this place for 10 days. First thing – how many days? 10 days, how many meetings> and then I look at the temperature for that whole week. Okay so I am going to this place, this is the temperature it is hot. In this place it is cold, accordingly I do my packing. In a day do I have full day meetings or is it three meetings in a day? You know you are going to a place, and I have the entire list, okay this place I have gone before; in that place you cannot wear your shoe inside so you don’t need to carry two pairs of shoes, only one informal shoes will be needed, because anyway you cannot wear inside the church you don’t need the formals. In the other place you can wear, so you need two pairs; one for walking on the streets and the formal pair you need when you are standing on the pulpit. Why are you preparing? It is because you know where you are going.

Now let me ask you this question – do you know where you are going? That is the question God is asking Hagar. Where are you coming from? Where are you going? Do you know where you are going? These are serious questions to ask because Jesus said, it is be so fast there will be no time to change. There will be no time to prepare. It is appointed unto every man to die and immediately it is judgment, not preparation. He said it. And what is that judgment called in *Hebrews 6 – eternal judgment*. It is a permanent judgment. That is it.

So the epistles are written to those who are saved to prepare us for a place and the Person to whom we are going. And that is what the whole thing is about. What kind of a body are you going to get? Are you upset that this one is doing that, and that one is doing that, I can’t? God says, ‘Don’t worry about others.’ Do you know the lady Joni Eareckson Tada, who has quadriplegic, have you seen her? And there is another guy without limbs, Nick Vujicic, he goes around, he even came to Hyderabad but they didn’t allow him to speak in many places. Do you know what their testimonies are? They say, ‘My shriveled arms and shriveled legs in a twinkling of an eye we will be turned into glory.’ What hope do the people in the world have? If you have quadriplegic, then you have quadriplegic. But it is not the same with the believers. Why do they push themselves around the world to witness Jesus Christ? Don’t look at this body, it is not who I am. I know where I am going. And I know how I will be changed. And I am pressing for my price.

Paul says, ‘*Forgetting those things which are behind and pressing forward.*’ And God offers all these things. He lays it all before us. It doesn’t matter what you are interested in. You sacrifice that now to the Kingdom of God. All those who are fasting and praying, fasting and praying, God will say, ‘Feast now.’ There is no need to fast in Heaven. You don’t have to pray in Heaven. your prayers have been answered, you are going to a place where every prayer is answered. You don’t have to fast. So he says, everything that you go through over here for the sake of the King and the Kingdom, he says, will be recompensed over there in a body that is mind-boggling. The fastest elevators, let’s say the express elevators, even that takes time. If the highest story of that city is 1500 miles away, you just have to blink and you are there.

That is what one of our little ones asked – how long did it take for Jesus to come? He just has to blink. It is a different dimension altogether. If you read the Bible it is a mind-boggling book. Let me ask you this – which religion offers you anything like this? There is nothing like this in any religion, because they do not know where they are going. This is not a hidden Book, it is very clear. Where you began and where you will end. It is very clear. This is where you began, this is what happened, this is what I am doing, this is what I am preparing you for, this is where you are going.

Think about it – Heaven, it is a prepared place for a prepared people. I wrote something – you can eat without worrying, serve without exhaustion, fellowship without misunderstanding, learn without limitations and rest without being bored, because all the limits are taken off. I want to tell you something, no one goes to Heaven by accident. It is an intentional

decision. That is why the Bible talks about only two categories – saved or lost. Once you are saved the rest of your life is a preparation. Even as Jesus prepares Heaven for us, we prepare ourselves for Heaven.

Romans 8:18-24

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

The redemption of our body; everything is constrained by this fallen body and all the saints are crying out to be released from this body so that they can enter into the fullness of what God is offering. This is the hope into which we are saved. You are going to a prepared place and God is preparing us for that. In the twinkling of an eye the Bible says that mortality will become immortality, corruption will become incorruption. Weakness will become power. We talk about Marvel Comics and superman, Spiderman, batman, they will be nothing compared to the children of God. What God is going to do.

So let's stand and let us sing this song which we haven't sung for a long, long time. Old timers' songs.
(Church singing 'Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me – I've got a home in glory land.')

That is where we are going? Is there anyone here who does not know Jesus as their Saviour? As your Lord? You don't have to wait till tomorrow, because He may come tonight. Nobody knows that day or that hour, nothing more needs to be done for Him to come. In the twinkling of an eye, like the thief in the night He just comes and the Church is gone. The Bible says that He comes in the glory of the Father and in His own glory and the glory of the angels. Gone! The Church is gone! And by chance if you are left behind you have to come through tribulation. You will lose your head, you will have to die to make it. Now you can live to make it.

So there is always a day called today, and when the day is called 'today' God says, 'Do not harden your heart.' Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. That is what the Church is; the Church has only two objectives – get the unsaved saved and prepare the saved. It doesn't have a third function, everything revolves around these two agendas. What is it? Compel those who are unsaved, pray, fast, witness, get them in. once you are in prepare to go there. Isn't that what all these young people are doing? They are going to school, think about it 5 days or 6 days a week school, 9:00 to 4:00 PM, how many hours a week. For an average believer even in this church, it is just 3 hours on a Sunday, preparation for Heaven, eternity. 3 hours on a Sunday, that too half of them fall asleep. While we flog our children for a career which we are not even sure about.

That is the question God is asking you and me, all of us – where are you coming from? And where are you going? That is why the Bible says – God has made the poor in this world rich in faith. Very rich. Most of the people you meet in Heaven you will release they did not own their houses on earth. But they were okay because they knew that they have a Home in Glory Land. They were beaten and mocked, they went through everything because of their testimony but they were okay with all the marks on their body because they knew they would receive another body. They went through sleepless night, like Paul writes about his testimony, without sleep because they knew a day would come where they would have no need for sleep. And they consider it all as momentary affliction in the light of eternal weight of glory. This morning God is telling us again, even as you live on earth, even as you do all your daily functions keep your mind and your heart on things that are above, not below. Whatever you do on earth should have an eternal value and an eternal meaning.

Let's pray

Closing prayer

Father this morning we come to You. The price You paid and went through to save us. 2000 years You are still preparing a place for Your people, even those two chapters do not fully cover, we do not even understand what it will look like. But Your Word says that eyes haven't seen, nor ears heard what God is preparing for those who love Him. And it is not for a year, it is not even for 10 years, it is not even for hundred years. It is forever and ever. And God will be in their midst and He will be their God and they will be His Children. And He will wipe away every tear. It is a place of 'no more'; no more death, no more pain, no more sickness, no more misunderstanding, no more, no more, no more. And everything that is good is forevermore. And I pray Father, like the churches for 2000 years, and even now in the persecuted nations have received that vision and they are willing to die for Jesus and not turn back. We, too, in the free nations would receive that vision, His presence and that place He is preparing. "If I go," Jesus said, "I will come back to receive you to My presence." There is a Bride in our midst who is getting ready for Wednesday, but there is Christ's bride also in our midst, men, women and children who are preparing for that day and I pray that everyone will catch that spirit.

Put aside those things that don't profit in eternity. You told us – lay treasures in Heaven. So while we live on earth we can lay treasures in Heaven. The rich young ruler was not willing. Jesus said, 'Sell it off, give it to the poor, you will have treasure in Heaven,' but he walked away. Put away all those things that restricts and restrains the Spirit of God in our lives. He says, "In MY presence there is fullness, not half, fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore."

Touch our hearts Lord, every heart that has hardened, that has strayed away, caught by this false glitter of this world, save us from ourselves. It is false, it is empty, because John, too, was given a true vision of Babylon – the woman dressed in scarlet sitting on the beast. And he was also given the vision of the heavenly Jerusalem. Which vision will we follow today? The false or the true? Let there be surrender, Lord. Today is a new day, a new beginning, let us turn our hearts and minds to things above and towards the One who is above.

Prepare! Prepare! For the Lord is coming. The Lord is coming. Even to the first church You said, 'Write this, let them comfort one another with these words.' Touch everyone, let there be peace in homes, peace in hearts, restoration. Not because of earth, but because of Heaven. not for something that is temporal, but for something that is eternal. Turn the young minds to You and old minds to You. Touch Lord, touch. Let that question ring in our ears – where are you coming from? Where are you going? I pray that each one will have the right answer. Thank You Father, thank You for bringing us through 6 months and 16 days. Thank You Father, thank You Lord. Let Your unction rest upon every soul. Each man, woman and child, help us all to constantly prepare for the Lord's coming. Thank You Father, thank You Lord. We praise YOU, we worship You, we glorify You Lord. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. Amen.