

TODAY**TOMORROW**

What are some things we hope for in the future?

How might hope for tomorrow ruin today?

- We stop living **today**
 - We might stop taking **today** seriously or don't value it

How could today ruin our hope for tomorrow?

- We stop **hoping for tomorrow**
 - If today is **good**, we might forget about tomorrow's good
 - If today is **bad**, we might lose hope (despair)

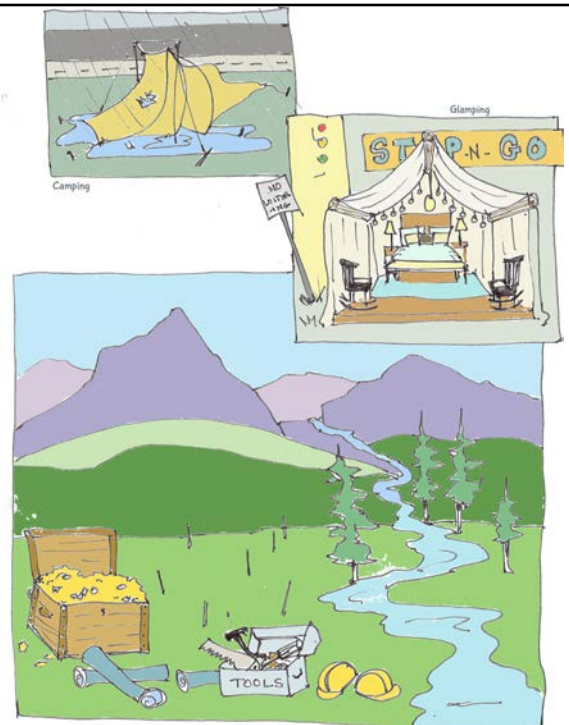
How should hope of heaven shape our lives today?

1

Designed and Built by God

Hebrews 11:8-10

Chinese page 1953
 Spanish page 1536
 English-Green page 823
 English-Brown* page 1212
 * **larger print**



2

The Lord's Supper Sundays

- Celebration of Jesus' death that brought us life
- First Sunday of each month
- Cycle through key elements of the Gospel

Holiness: Holy, creator God over all

Sin: immorality and disloyalty to God by all people

Grace: God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus' death

Faith: Our genuine trust in Him to receive this free gift

Mission: Our submission to our **Lord** Jesus Christ

Heaven: The hope of the perfect Kingdom restored

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The story of Abraham

- The beginning of God's specific plan of rescuing humanity
- God's command to Abraham:
 - "Go to a new land that I'll give to your descendants but not to you I'll explain later"
- Abraham obeyed and went
 - He never owned any land there except a burial plot

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Abraham

- His son Isaac and grandson Jacob lived the same way
- After that, the family lived as strangers in a foreign country (Egypt) for 400 years
 - As slaves
- Then God brought them back to the Land of Promise
 - **500 years** after the promise was given

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Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is

confidence in what we **hope** for and
assurance about what **we do not see**.

This is what the ancients were commended for.

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Hebrews 11:8-10

By **faith** Abraham,
 when called to go to a place
 he would later receive as his inheritance,
obeyed and went,
 even though he **did not know** where he was going.
 By **faith** he
 made his home in the **promised land**
like a stranger in a foreign country;
 he lived in **tents**, as did Isaac and Jacob,
 who were **heirs** with him of the same promise.

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Hebrews 10:8-10

For **He lived like a foreigner in a tent**
without security, permanence, or ownership
 he was looking forward **looking forward**
to something that was far better
 to the **city**
Safety + Provision + Culture + Learning + ...
 with **foundations**,
Stable + Enduring + Secure + ...
 whose **architect** and **builder** is **God**.
The one who designed and created the universe...

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The promise for Christ's people today

“See, I will create
 new heavens and a new earth.
 The former things will not be remembered,
 nor will they come to mind.
 But **be glad and rejoice forever**
 in what I will create,
 for I will create Jerusalem to be a **delight**
 and its people a **joy**.
I will rejoice over Jerusalem
 and **take delight** in my people;
 the sound of weeping and of crying
 will be heard in it no more.”

Isaiah 65:17-19

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The promise for Christ's people today

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down
 out of heaven from God, prepared as a **bride**
beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard
 a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! **God's**
dwelling place is now among the people, and **he**
will dwell with them. They will be his people, and
 God himself will be with them and be their God.”

Revelation 21:2-3

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The Big Idea

God's promises
for our glorious future
of living with God
lead us to
life-filled anticipation today

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Two errors Christians can make...

1) Hope for tomorrow makes us stop living today
**“So heavenly minded
that we are no earthly good”**

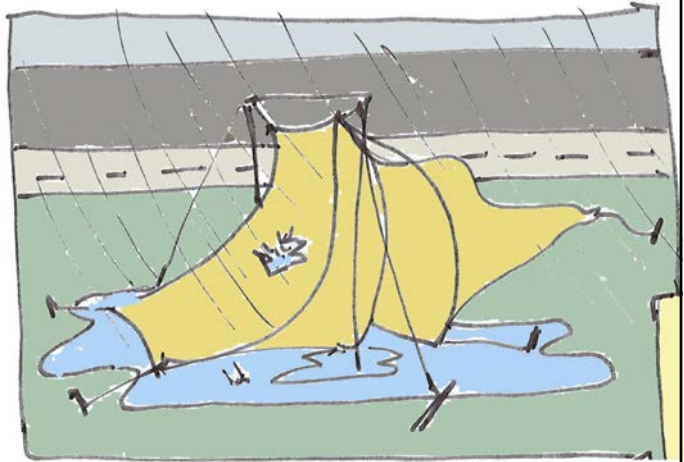
- We might stop...
 - Making every effort to grow as Christians
 - Valuing the wonderful creation God gave us
 - Courageously loving and caring for all people
 - Like the “**wicked and lazy servant**” who buried his master's treasure instead of investing it *Matthew 25:14-30*

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Two errors Christians can make...

2) Today makes us stop **hoping for tomorrow**

- If today seems very bad, we can be afraid to hope



Camping

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Two errors Christians can make...

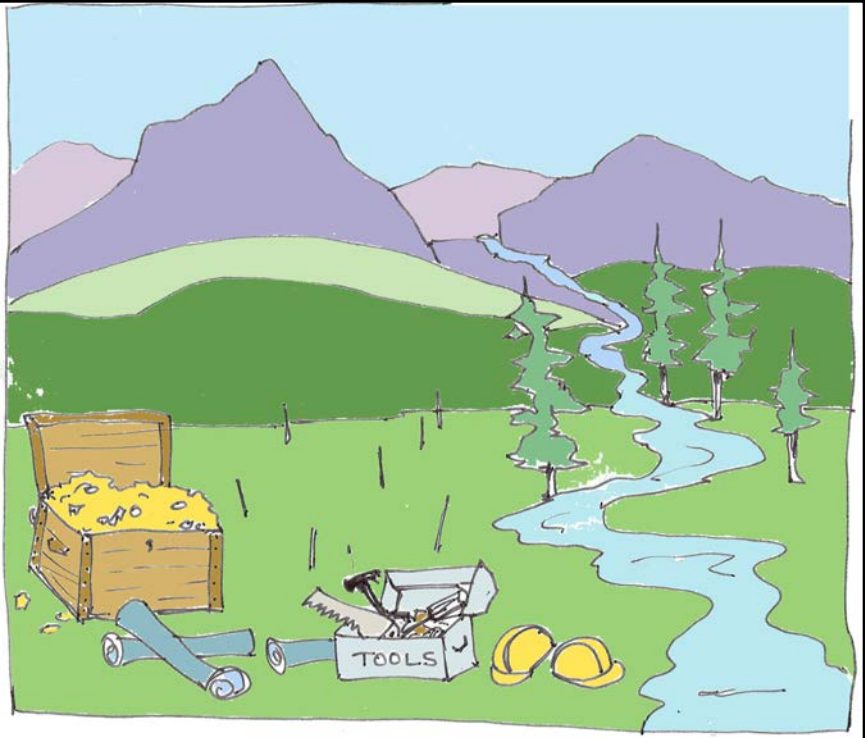
2) Today makes us stop **hoping for tomorrow**

- If today seems very good, why hope for Christ's return?



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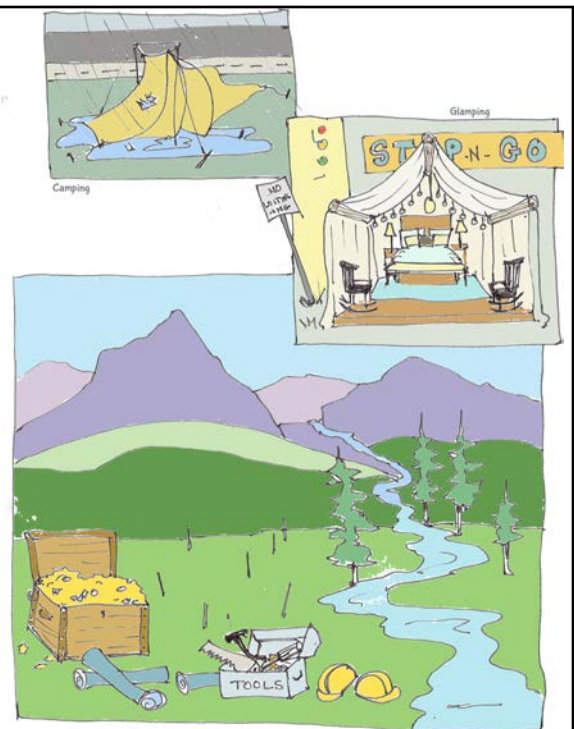
God, who designed and built this good world, **is recreating it even better!**



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We are to live today in our tent...

looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God!



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What we see today
is like looking at a seed
Most seeds are ugly
Some might have some
beauty

But they are nothing like
the glory of the flower!

We value the seed because
of the flower it will
become

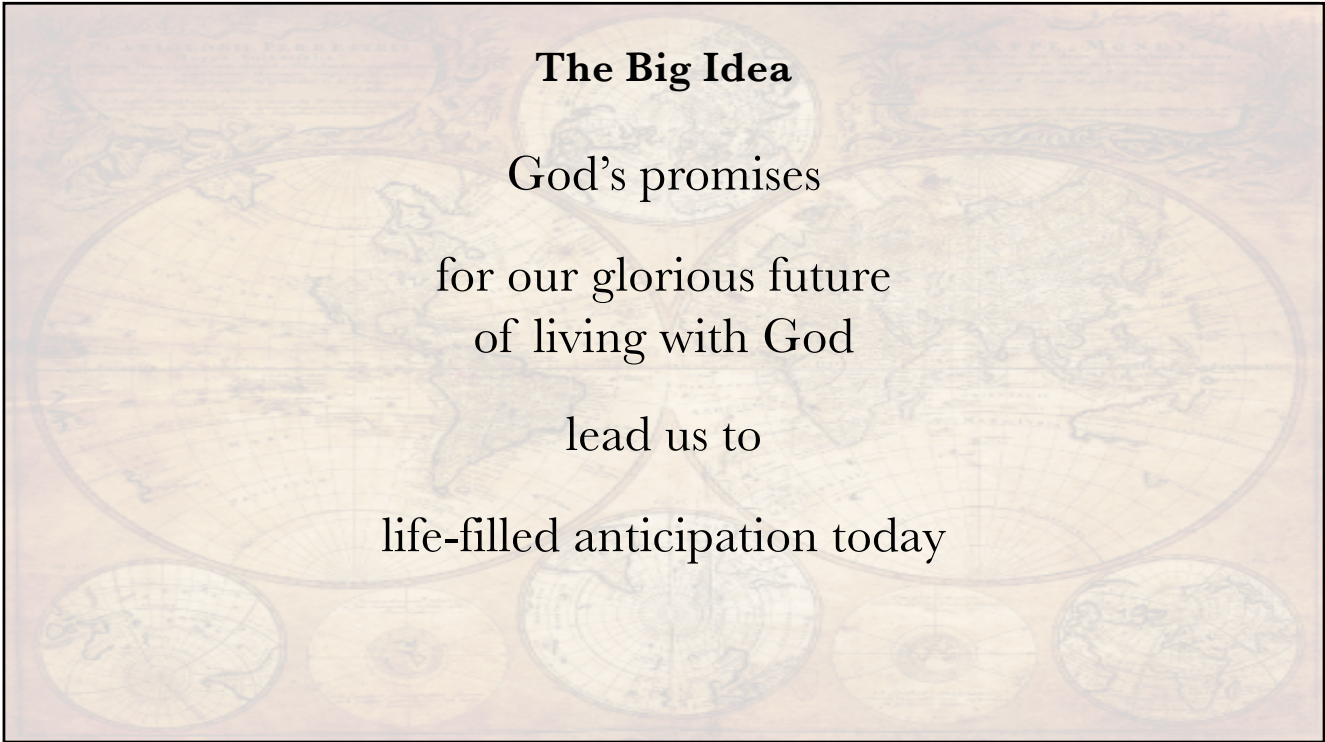


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We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus** and of the **love you have for all God's people**—the faith and love that **spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven** and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. *Colossians 1:3-6*

**Faith in Christ Jesus
and love for all God's people
spring from the hope stored up for us in heaven** } **Today's beauty**

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The Big Idea
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Application
Live As a foreigner In this land of promise

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Application

Live **As a foreigner** **In this land of promise**

- Not checked out or passive!
- Life-giving, passionate, engaged, creative, ...
- “Faith and love that spring from our hope”

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Application

Live **As a foreigner** **In this land of promise**

- Based on a new set of values and behaviors
- In a world that constantly brings weeds and decay
 - Do **everything** in love
 - **Delight** in what is right and true and good
 - Do justly, love mercy, and walk **humbly** with God
 - Being **renewed** every day
 - By a completely different definition of “**success**”

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*Application***Live****As a foreigner****In this land of promise**

- We are physical beings who will live in our physical bodies in a physical world forever
 - Then → without decay or sickness or sorrow or mourning
- The good we experience here is a foretaste of there
 - “He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” *Acts 14:17*
 - “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” *James 1:17*
- It is God-like to take care of our physical world

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*Application***Live****As a foreigner****In this land of promise**

- But we aren't home yet!
- We see **shadows** here that will be **substance** there
 - **Unfulfilled dreams** here will be replaced by **abundant joy** there
 - **Broken people** we see who are in Christ here will be **reigning with God with His glory**
 - **Broken relationships** we experience in Christ here will be **joy-filled love and friendship** there

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Finding an amazing deal!

If you had invested \$1,000 in Coca Cola when it went public in 1919, it would be worth \$12,165,120 today, and you would be earning \$368,640 each year in dividends

Joseph Kleitsch Oil Painting. Purchased for \$100 is now worth \$500,000

Look to your right and left:
if that person is in Christ,
you are looking at cosmic royalty!



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The Big Idea

God's promises
for our glorious future of living with God
lead us to
life-filled anticipation today

Live as foreigners in this land of promise

- **Hope-filled and rejoicing**
- **Life-giving, passionate, and creative**
- **Because of the glory and goodness of our God who will dwell with us in the new heaven and new earth**

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