

In Eager Expectation

Roman s8:13-30



Hope through Death

- Daniel 12:2-3: "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake..."
- What does God tell us about death and beyond? And how might that affect how we live today?
- A Christian view... (Our statement of faith #10)

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace.

The future for those who are "in Christ"

	Life	Death	Resurrection
Our being	Soul with a natural body Like a tent	Soul joyful yet feeling the lack of a body	Soul with a glorified body Like a palace
Where	Earth	Heaven At home with the LORD	New Heaven and New Earth The New Jerusalem

Romans 8:18-30

- 18: Present sufferings surpassed by future glory
- 19-23: With all creation, we wait eagerly
- 24-25: We wait with hope
- 26-27: Because the Spirit intercedes for us
- 28-30: And because God is working for our good
so we'll experience God's glory and we will also be glorified



The Big Idea

**All who trust in the Good News in Jesus Christ
will one day live with great joy and freedom
in our glorious earth
that is exactly what we were made for**

Creation Creation waits in eager expectation

Liberated from its bondage to decay, and brought into a glorious freedom
Like the pains of childbirth

Sometimes our current troubles drown our hope

Sometimes the good (enough) in our world is enough to absorb our attention

God commands us...

to set our hope on the new heavens and new earth
And when we do, it brings a foretaste of that new world here

But sometimes we can think that what is over the fence is actually kind of boring...

"Narrow" and "Broad" definitions

"Worship"

Narrow: singing songs, praying, reading Scripture, learning more about God and His ways

Broad: delighting in God and His creation, doing the good work He gives us to do, loving and serving people

"Church"

Narrow: when we are gathered for a worship service and prayer gatherings and Bible studies

Broad: eating together, serving together, loving & serving each other, delighting in God and His creation together

“Heaven” (new heaven and new earth)

Narrow: like narrow view of worship & church

A worship service and prayer gathering

Broad: like broad view of worship & church

Living life together with God

Delighting in God and His creation (the new earth)

Doing the good work we’ve been made and called to do

Without any decay, sin, disease, trouble, ...

That is life giving, good, and rewarding

Imagine

What you were made to do and be

Work, learn, create, discover, teach, serve, give, comfort, repair, make art, ...

Without...sin, decay, frustration, ...

With...love, joy, harmony, ...

Delighting in God & His creation & His people

Application

Live in eager, patient, active hope in the glorious future Jesus is making for us

Eager

Creation is standing on tiptoe deeply longing for freedom from bondage and decay, and for the freedom of living in glory!

We are to set our hope fully ...

Like an engaged couple deeply in love longing for the marriage

Patient

Jesus taught parables calling for endurance

Widows awaiting the bridegroom (Matthew 25)

Servants investing for a traveling master (Luke 19)

It takes wisdom & skill to be ready all the time while also being ready for a lifetime

Active

“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

Be salt and light

Godly hope brings a foretaste of the new heaven and new earth to our world today

With His power

Jesus is preparing a place FOR US!

Like the best possible gift by the person who knows us the best

With God and His people forever!

Eager, patient, and active hope...

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What normally comes to mind when you think of “heaven”? How does that image affect your daily life?
2. What does it look like to hope **eagerly** for the new heaven and the new earth? Why is that a good thing to do?
3. What does it look like to hope **patiently** for the new heaven and the new earth? Why is that a good thing to do?
4. What does it look like to hope **actively** for the new heaven and the new earth? Why is that a good thing to do?
5. The joy and beauty of this new heaven and new earth is reserved for those who are “in Christ”. The alternative is too hard to contemplate. Have you responded to the call to turn to Jesus Christ so you will receive life from Him? If not, what is holding you back?
6. Who is someone you can share this hope with? Perhaps it is someone with faith in Christ yet little hope in the new heaven and new earth. Perhaps it is someone who has not yet come to faith in Christ. When and how might you share this hope with them?