Looking For Heaven On Earth

Tony Mauck · John 14:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- New Harmony was settled by a fellow named George Rapp, and he was attempting to establish an ideal utopian community there.
- This world is totally broken by sin. Sin has its effects on our world and people.
- Are we foolishly looking for heaven on earth?

1 All Is Vanity Under the Sun

Ecclesiastes 1:8–9

- All is vanity. The eye is not satisfied with seeing. The ear is not satisfied with hearing.
- This is a poor place under the sun to place all of our hopes.
- If you are going to consume yourself with pleasure or finding fulfillment in something in this world, you will come up short.

2 This World Is Not My Home

John 14:1–3; Ecclesiastes 9:7–12

- Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. In my father's house are many dwelling places.
- I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to myself. That where I am, there you may be also.
- Don't place undue hopes in this world. Make the best of your circumstances here, but cling to things above the sun.
- Understand the limitations, even in the best of pursuits in life. This world is broken by sin and by sorrow.

3 Choose the Exalted Life of Godliness

1 Timothy 4:8

- Bodily exercise profits a little. But godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and the life that is to come.
- The most important thing that we need to set our minds to do is to be godly.
- Ultimate fulfillment of all of our longings for harmony and joy will not be satisfied here.

4 Lasting Joy in Selfless Living

- We sing, this world is not my home. And then we go home on Monday and we're frustrated, disappointed, and downright mad that it's not.

- We should look for lasting joy in selfless living instead of the fleeting happiness of selfish pursuits.
- Let me tell you what self and the exaltation of self really is. It is a black hole.
- If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
- Worship is fulfilling when the focus is upon someone else other than yourself.

5 The Search for Joy

Isaiah 53:3; John 17:3–5

- As predicted in Isaiah 53, he was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
- Despite the sorrows and the pain that he experienced, characteristically, his was a life of joy.
- This is eternal life, that we might know you, the only true and living God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.
- Any pursuit of fulfillment that doesn't first and foremost revolve around a right relationship with God will come to naught.

6 The Lord Expects Faithfulness; Home Is Where God Is

John 14:1; 2 Corinthians 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:1–9

- Number one, the Lord expects faithfulness. Believe in God, believe also in me.
- It will be necessary to believe God and believe in Jesus when the storms of life assault.
- The second observation is home is where God is.
- So I have as my ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to the Lord. That is where true joy and fulfillment is found.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you looking for the new heavens, a new earth in which righteousness dwells, when everything will ultimately be fixed?

MY NOTES