

2018 WCCC
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To the Praise of His Glory (3)

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:10—And he carried me away in [the] Spirit, [and set me] on a great and high mountain, and shewed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of God.

Let's have a short word of prayer:

Dear Lord, when we were at Thy table, our hearts were full of gratitude. We who were the chief of sinners, and yet, Lord, Thou the Holy One of God should die in our stead. We are forever grateful, and our heart's desire is, Lord, come quickly. We want to see Thee. We want to be with Thee. There is nothing better than that. We thank Thee for all Thy mercy and grace Thou has showered upon us these days, and to know Thy presence here with us. May Thou speak to us again and glorify Thy name. In Thy precious name we pray. Amen.

I always feel hesitant to speak after the breaking of bread. Because of the breaking of bread, the Lord has brought us to His very presence. And if we should remain there, that is all that is necessary. So I always feel that after the breaking of bread for me to speak is just too much. You are falling from the climax, but because the brothers arranged it I have to obey. So even though I am always hesitant to speak after the Lord's table, I will try my best to share with my brothers and sisters.

Our Blessed Hope

What is the subject that we are going to talk about? Of course, we must talk about the new Jerusalem; that is our blessed hope. We are all waiting for the new Jerusalem, so may the Lord bless our time together. The apostle John was led by the angel to a mountain and was shown the new Jerusalem, the city of God. We need a vision of the new Jerusalem because that vision would encourage us and strengthen us. It would enable us to press forward towards the goal. It is our blessed hope that the Lord will come back for us and take us to His new

Jerusalem. This is the ultimate purpose of God. From the very beginning, before He created the heavens and earth, God had this in view. He wanted the church with Him forever and forever. So here we see the new Jerusalem, and this is our destination. This is where we all will go. This is what God has provided for His own. So hopefully we will have a glimpse of this new Jerusalem, and it will be an incentive to our lives here on earth.

No one can live without hope. If you have no hope, you have no sense of living. But thank God, we who are the Lord's are the most hopeful people because we are looking forward to the new Jerusalem that God has provided for His people. The new Jerusalem is the union of God and man; it is our eternal home.

Are you looking forward to the new Jerusalem? If you have that kind of hope, it will help you to live a new kind of life because you know that is where you will be eventually. New Jerusalem is the home of God and man forever. We will be with the Lord forever and forever. That is where we will all be going, and that should be an incentive to each and every one of us. New Jerusalem is the place where God and man will be one forever and forever.

The New Jerusalem Unites the Bible into One

The Bible tells us that the new Jerusalem has twelve gates and twelve foundations. The twelve gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, and the twelve foundations have the twelve names of the apostles. What does that indicate? It shows us that God is going to conclude all that He has done throughout the ages with Israel and with the church. It will all be consummated in new Jerusalem; nothing that God has done is lost.

The twelve gates have the names of the twelve tribes of Israel which refer to the Old Testament. And the twelve foundations bear the names of the apostles which tell us of the New Testament. So we can see that the whole Bible is united together into one.

We are always thinking of the golden streets, but there is only one street. How can a huge city have only one street? It will go round and round and round the city, and whichever gate you go in, the street will lead you to the throne of God and of Christ because Christ and God are everything to us.

Is Christ everything to you? Or do you think Christ is too much for you? How do you live your life today? Do you live with Christ in view? Or do you live with yourself in view? In new Jerusalem the center is God and Christ. No matter from what gate you enter, there is only one street, and it will go round and round and round until you reach the summit. Thank God, this is God's will for man.

What is the purpose of our life? If it is not God and His Christ, we have no purpose in life. But thank God, even in this wretched world there is something

worthwhile to live for because we live for God and for Christ. This is the only worthwhile life to live. This is something that we need to consider today. May I ask you a very open question? For whom do you live today? Are you living for yourself? Or are you living for Christ and God? If we live for God, thank God we will be in new Jerusalem, and I hope and I believe that everyone here will be there. This is our eternal home.

God and Christ are the Light in New Jerusalem

In new Jerusalem we do not see any sunlight or moonlight because Christ and God are the light. That city is full of light because the light of God and Christ shines through the whole city. There is no night because God is light. We are afraid of night, especially the children, because we are afraid of darkness. But thank God, in eternity there is no night in new Jerusalem. There is no need for darkness because we are children of light.

In the whole of Jerusalem there is only one river, and it goes from the throne to every gate. This river, of course, represents the Holy Spirit, and He is throughout the whole city. The city is full of the Holy Spirit, and those who live in the city live in light and walk in light. Are you afraid to walk in light? If you walk on the street that is full of light, it will show everything that is in your heart. Are you afraid to walk in this city? In new Jerusalem the city is full of light, and if you walk in that city there can be nothing hidden within you. Everything in you has been cleansed by the blood of the Lord Jesus. Therefore, you can walk safely knowing that there is nothing in you that you want to hide.

Now may I say this? Today, when we walk in this world, everyone has something to hide in himself or herself. Everyone has something that he does not want people to know about. Now isn't that true? But thank God, in that day there will be nothing that you need to hide because now here on earth you are receiving the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who dwells in each and every one of us is so faithful to us; more than that He is faithful to Christ, and that is why sometimes, I am afraid too often, He speaks something that is against your will. It is the most blessed thing in this wretched world that we can walk as Christians. Just think; this is the world that is so full of temptations, and as we are walking daily through it, if it were not for the Holy Spirit dwelling in each one of us there is no way we could be a real Christian.

At one time I had a dear brother in the Lord who was an electrician, and because this was his job, at times he had to go to the theatre to repair the electricity. He told me that when he went to the theatre to work on the electricity, he always had a fear that people would see him going into the theatre thinking he was going to see a movie. But actually, it was his work, and he was not going to

see the movie. Nevertheless, he was always afraid that people would say, "Brother so and so went to the theatre to see a movie."

In New Jerusalem There will be Nothing Hidden

But thank God, in the new Jerusalem there is no fear within you because you are a hundred percent open. How good that will be that you can live in life without anything to hide. If this afternoon everybody would open themselves up, what kind of congregation that would be. We would be fighting against each other because there is nothing good in us. But thank God, in the future, in our destination we can open ourselves to one another. There will be nothing hidden within us because we will be complete in Christ Jesus. So to walk on the street of new Jerusalem there is a fellowship that is unlimited. There is nothing to hide from one another. We know each other as God has known us. How wonderful that will be! But in this world, if this should happen you would not want to live in it because it would be so dreadful.

Frankly speaking, we all hide from one another. We try to show our best, but how much do we have hidden within ourselves? This is not real life, but thank God, in new Jerusalem there will be real life because everybody will be open to one another. And when I look into you, I will see nothing but Christ, and when you look into me, you will see nothing but Christ. Isn't that wonderful! So those who live in new Jerusalem are those who have been saved to the uttermost. That is the reason that we need to be saved to the uttermost. God will not allow us to be barely saved because we will not be able to live in the light, but thank God, in new Jerusalem we all will live in the light. You will be able to see me through and through, and I will be able to see you through and through. And whom will you see? It is Christ. Christ becomes all and all to us. Isn't that a wonderful thing!

Why do We have to Endure Such Dealings?

The Bible says that this city has a wall of jasper, and the city is pure gold. Everything in it speaks of God. Can we say today that everything in our life speaks of Christ? This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Why is it that after we are saved, we are still here on earth? When I was first saved, I sometimes asked the question: "Lord, if You have saved me, why do you not take me immediately to Yourself? That would save me from lots of headaches and dealings. How good that would be!" But God loves us so much He does not want anyone to be barely saved. He wants everybody to be saved to the uttermost so that we can be joined with Christ forever, and this is the new Jerusalem.

The Bible tells us that in the city there is no light because God and Christ are the light of the city. He fills the city, and we who live in the city will all be filled with Christ, and that is the reason we can live there. If anyone is not saved or even if you are saved but barely saved and are put into new Jerusalem, you will not be able to bear it because it is too light. It begins to reveal everything that is within you. So it is much better if we are willing to accept the dealing of the Holy Spirit today. Why is it after you are saved that you are not like the robber who was crucified with Christ? He turned to Christ before he died and asked the Lord to remember him, and the Lord said, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." Do you ever have this thought of how good it would be if I am that robber and after I am saved I just go? But God has something better for you, and that is why we are still here.

You remember when our Lord was leaving, He told His disciples: "I am going, but I am coming back to receive you to Myself. I am going to prepare a place for you." And the word place is mentioned. Don't regret it if you live in a small place because one day you will have a mansion; God is preparing a mansion for everyone. So here is our opportunity. It is the mercy of God who stills leaves us on earth because if He should take us the moment we are saved, you know what would happen? Heaven will be filled with babies. Now babies are beautiful; everybody loves babies. When I see these babies in this conference, I just love them. They look so innocent; but they are not innocent. Their demands are so great, and the father and mother have to cater to their demands; otherwise, they will cry.

The Golden Street

But in new Jerusalem, thank God, we will walk on a golden street. The golden street reflects everything that is within us. You will be able to see me through and through. I will be able to see you through and through. Now that would be the most terrible situation in this world if a person could see you through and through. You would be afraid of that person because before that person you would be finished. But thank God, in new Jerusalem you can walk on the golden street without any regret because there is nothing for you to hide.

Why does the Lord tell us in His Word that we are to search ourselves? If you do not search yourself, if you do not allow the Holy Spirit to speak within you, you will not be able to live in new Jerusalem. If God should put you there, you will cry out, "Get me out!" You will not be able to stand it. But thank God, that is the work of the Holy Spirit. That is how the Holy Spirit works in each and every one of our lives.

Do you sometimes think, “Why is it that the Lord demands so much of me? Can He not allow me to just hide something within me to satisfy my ego?” But the Lord loves you so much He does not want you to have any regret forever. He wants to use this time to perfect you so that you can walk in new Jerusalem without any fear. Oh, how good it would be if we could walk today without any fear in us, if we could be open to everyone, and no one could find anything of self in us. All that is of self must be dealt with. The stricter the Lord deals with you, the more it shows just how much He loves you. Do you sometimes have the feeling, “Lord, I have been trying my best, but can You just leave me a little for myself?”

Personal Testimony

I was fifteen when I was saved, and people told me that I should not go to the theatre. Even though I was a pastor’s son I always spent my Saturdays in the theatre. I had a friend whose family owned a theatre, so we could go to the theatre without paying. But after I was saved people told me, “You are a saved person; you should not go to the theatre.” I always argued with them and said, “I am very careful because I only see good things.” I tried very hard, but usually on Saturday you could find me in the theatre.

For several months I stopped going, but I did not dare tell anybody because I was afraid one day I may fail. But Satan knew about it. So a famous movie came called Noah’s Ark, and people sent tickets to my family. How I argued with myself about that movie! It is a religious picture and what is wrong in going to see a religious picture? So I went, and it was the dirtiest picture I have ever seen. So you would say, “If that is the case you should have walked out.” But I didn’t. I sat there for two hours. Outwardly, I was looking; inwardly I was fighting. And you would say, “Why didn’t you get out?” But I still sat there for two straight hours. But thank God, the Holy Spirit did a permanent work. From that day onward I have never been to a theatre just to see a picture. Yes, I have been to theatres to attend gospel meetings, but God has delivered me from worldly things. So if there is still something in this world that you cling to, even if the Lord will allow you to go to new Jerusalem, you will cry out, “Get me out!” because you would not be able to bear it.

There is a reason why the Lord has to deal so strictly with every one of us. The stricter the better! We have to change our mentality. Do you sometimes complain that the Lord is dealing with you more strictly than other people? When you look at other brothers and sisters, it seems as if the Lord lets them do things or go anywhere, but you are different. The Lord deals strictly with you, and do you complain about it? I did! But the Lord loves you dearly and He wants you to be

perfect. He wants you to be completed that when He puts you in new Jerusalem there will be no regrets within you. Thank God for preparing us for new Jerusalem.

The Tree of Life and the River

In new Jerusalem there is the tree of life. Now you can imagine how large this city is, but there is only one street and one river. So you will be able to go through every gate and round and round and round and up and up and up until you reach the throne. There is only one tree in the midst of the street on either side of the river, and every month it bears its fruit. Those who live in the city have the fruit of the tree of life as their fruit just as in the early days in the garden of Eden when the Lord prepared the fruit trees for man to eat. And sure enough in eternity there will only be the tree of life. There will no longer be the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because God's purpose will have been fulfilled.

This is your destination. This is what God has provided for every one of us. If in this wretched world you are faced with some problems, remember this is only temporary if you are willing to obey God and let the Holy Spirit work in your life. Whatever the Spirit of God shows you to get rid of, be willing to do that. The Bible says that we have to daily bear the cross to follow the Lord Jesus. Are you doing that? Are you having regrets because you find being a Christian is too hard? Instead of complaining, you should be praising Him for arranging all these difficulties that come to you because He wants you to be perfected.

So today let's march on to Zion. How are you marching today? If you do not keep your eyes on new Jerusalem, I am afraid you will either stop or even go backwards. But thank God, when you think of new Jerusalem, the city of God, you know that God will provide for those who are His. We shall see Him face to face, and we shall serve Him forever and forever. What a blessed hope this is! So after this conference we will all go off to our various places with a blessed hope before each one of us that we are waiting for Zion, the beautiful city of Zion, the city of God.

Shall we pray:

Dear heavenly Father, we thank Thee for gathering us this time together because it is Thy desire that Thou wants each and every one of us in new Jerusalem. That is why Thou has given us opportunity after opportunity because Thou wants each and every one of us to be there with Thee forever and forever. We shall bear Thy name forever; we shall glorify Thee forever. We shall live for Thee evermore. We thank Thee for Thy blessedness. In Thy precious name we pray. Amen.