

SERMON SERIES: *Starting Point*

SERMON TITLE: New Future

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1-5

DATE: 10.31.21

BIG IDEA:

Only through the Gospel do we receive a new future.

1. New Future: What is it?

- God will renew all things.
 - The prophets spoke about the renewal of all things. [Isaiah 35](#), [Isaiah 25:6-8](#), [Isaiah 65:17-25](#)
- Every aspect of human life is renewed, healed, made whole.
 - There is no more tears or weeping
 - No more death
 - No more physical ailments
 - No more anxiety, worry, and depression
 - No more separation from God and an inability to see his full glory
 - No more of humans hurting one another
 - Work is once again life giving and extremely fruitful
 - Creation itself is healed and functions as it was originally designed to
- Jesus, himself, continued to speak about the renewal of all things. [Matthew 19:28-30](#)
- The disciples spoke of the renewal of all things. [Acts 3:19-21](#), [Colossians 1:19-20](#), [Romans 8:20-22](#)
- The future that the Bible paints is unlike any other picture that you will find in any other religion.
 - No other faith says not only that we will be resurrected as individuals but that the material world will be renewed as well. And so human society is destined not for ultimate oblivion but for the longed-for goal of perfect prosperity, love, justice, and peace....This is the fullest possible hope. The resurrection of Christ promises us not merely some future consolation for the life we lost but the restoration of the life we lost and

infinitely more. It promises the world and life that we have always longed for but never had.¹

2. New Future: Why do we need it?

- No matter how hard we have tried, we have not been able to create heaven on earth.

3. New Future: How do we get it?

- The Problem [Revelation 21:6-8](#)
 - If we say that God should just let murders, idolaters, sexual immoral, unfaithful, liars be a part of his new world, it would be no time at all before the renewed world is no longer new. Also, God wouldn't be just because he would not be given people what they deserve, which is to be eternally separated from him
 - If God sticks to his guns and doesn't let evil in, he would be just but there would be no one to inhabit the renewed world because evil runs through all of us.
- The Gospel is the good news regarding what Jesus has done for us so that we could be forgiven of all our sin, made righteous in God's sight, reconciled to God, and made a new creation that has the character to live in God's new world and not make a mess of it.
- When a person repents of their sin and rests on what Jesus did to pay for their sin, they receive Jesus's perfect performance record as a gift, and as a result, get the reward that comes with it. If the wages of sin is eternal death, defined as cut off from God and his renewed world forever. The wages of a sinless life is the opposite...eternal life with God in his renewed world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What aspect of God's renewal of all things are you most excited about?
2. Why is the future that God promises unlike the futures that other religions promise?
3. How has human history proven that we are incapable of creating heaven on earth?

¹ *Hope In Times of Fear* by Tim Keller p. 208.

4. Why is the Gospel the only way to get in on God's promised future?
5. How should the future that God is going to bring change how you live now?
6. Who in your life needs to hear about the renewal of all things and how they can be a part of it?