



In the Presence of the Lord

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Melbourne Community Church
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What will we learn?

- ❖ We will remain individuals, but we will be transformed.
- ❖ Heaven and earth will be changed, and all of creation will be changed.
- ❖ Some of our favorite things will continue, and others will be replaced with something better.
- ❖ The Lord rewards obedience, faithfulness and generosity.

Biblical Answers to Common Questions

HEAVEN

RANDY
ALCORN

A hand in a white sleeve is shown reaching out from the right side of the frame towards the book cover. The background is a warm, golden glow with bokeh light effects.

❖ *Heaven*
— by Randy Alcorn

Human history:

- ❖ Paradise: Genesis 1-2
- ❖ Fall and Redemption: Genesis 3 - Revelation 20
- ❖ Paradise regained: Revelation 21-22

Aspects of Daily Life

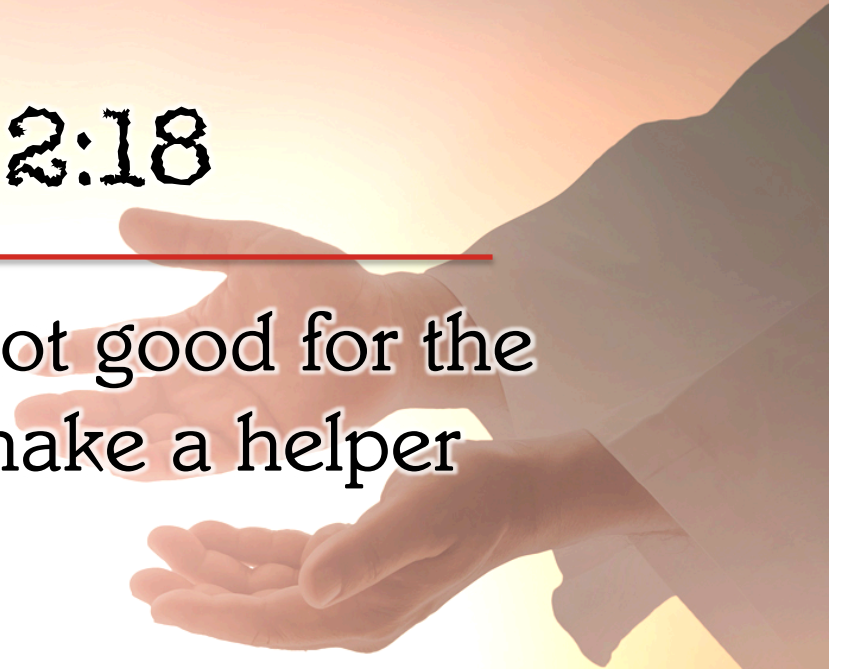
- ❖ Feasting – Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 8:11, Luke 14:12-14, Luke 22:18, 29-30, Revelation 2:7, Revelation 19:9
- ❖ Work – Genesis 2:15, John 4:34, John 5:17, John 17:4, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Colossians 3:23, 2 Timothy 2:21, Titus 1:7, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 1:17, Revelation 2:2, Revelation 22:3

Aspects of Daily Life

- ❖ Homes – Isaiah 65:21, Luke 16:9, John 14:2
- ❖ Rest – Genesis 2:2, Exodus 20:9-11, Leviticus 25:4-5, Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 4:1-11, Revelation 14:13

Genesis 2:18

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”



Jonathan Edwards:

“Every Christian friend that goes before us from this world is a ransomed spirit waiting to welcome us in heaven. There will be the infant of days that we have lost below, through grace to be found above.

Jonathan Edwards:

“There the Christian father, and mother, and wife, and child, and friend, with whom we shall renew the holy fellowship of the saints, which was interrupted by death here, but shall be commenced again in the upper sanctuary, and then shall never end.”

1 Thessalonians 3:13

May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Luke 24:15-16


As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

Mark 10:29-30

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields — along with persecutions — and in the age to come eternal life.”

Matthew 22:30

[Jesus]: “At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.”



Ephesians 5:31-32

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Randy Alcorn:

“God usually doesn’t replace his original creation, but when he does, he replaces it with something that is far better, never worse.”

Psalm 22:10

From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.

A hand is shown reaching out from the right side of the frame, palm up, against a warm, golden sunset background. Several birds are silhouetted in flight against the bright light of the sun.

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

2 Samuel 12:23

[David]: “But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

Augustine:

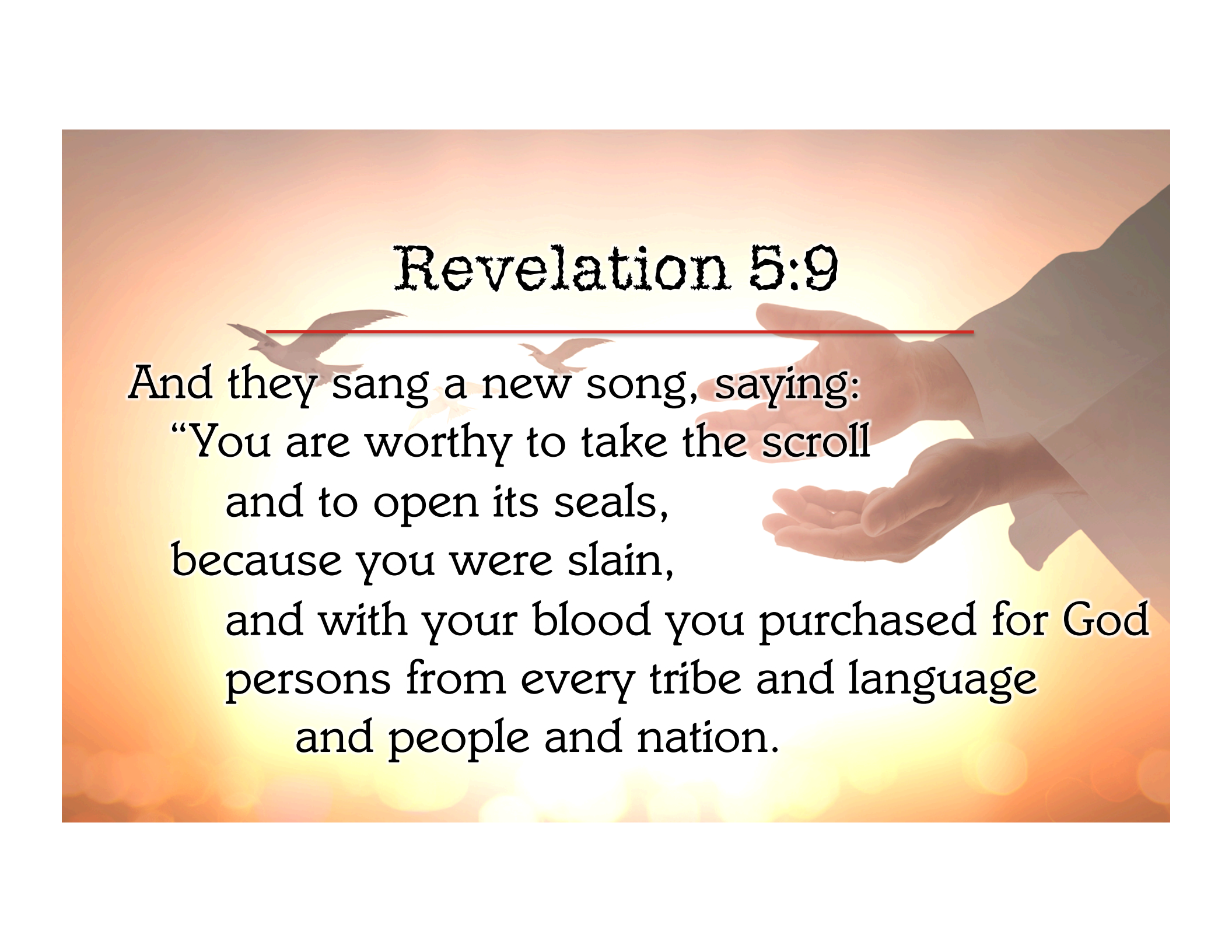
“We have not lost our dear ones who have departed from this life, but have merely sent them ahead of us, so we also shall depart and shall come to that life where they will be more than ever dear as they will be better known to us, and where we shall love them without fear of parting.”

Matthew 8:11

[Jesus]: “I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying:
“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language
and people and nation.

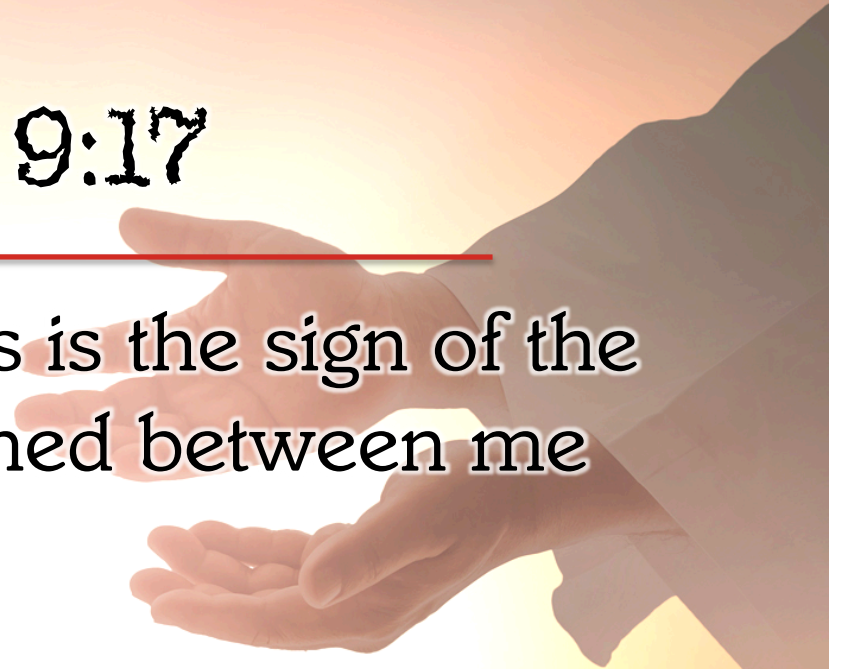


Genesis 9:9-10

[The LORD to Noah]: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you — the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you — every living creature on earth.

Genesis 9:17

So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”



Psalm 150:6

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.




Psalm 148:7-9

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

Psalm 148:10-12

wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
young men and women,
old men and children.



Psalm 148:13

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Revelation 5:13

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Romans 8:20-21

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Will Rogers:

“If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.”

John Wesley (November 30, 1781):

“Something better remains after death for these poor creatures ... That these, likewise, shall one day be delivered from this bondage of corruption, and shall then receive an ample amends for all their present sufferings.”

Psalm 16:9-11

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

¹You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Wilbur Smith:

“In heaven we will be permitted to finish many of those worthy tasks which we had dreamed to do while on earth but which neither time nor strength nor ability allowed us to achieve.”

Psalm 104:33

I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Ephesians 5:19-20

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:2-3

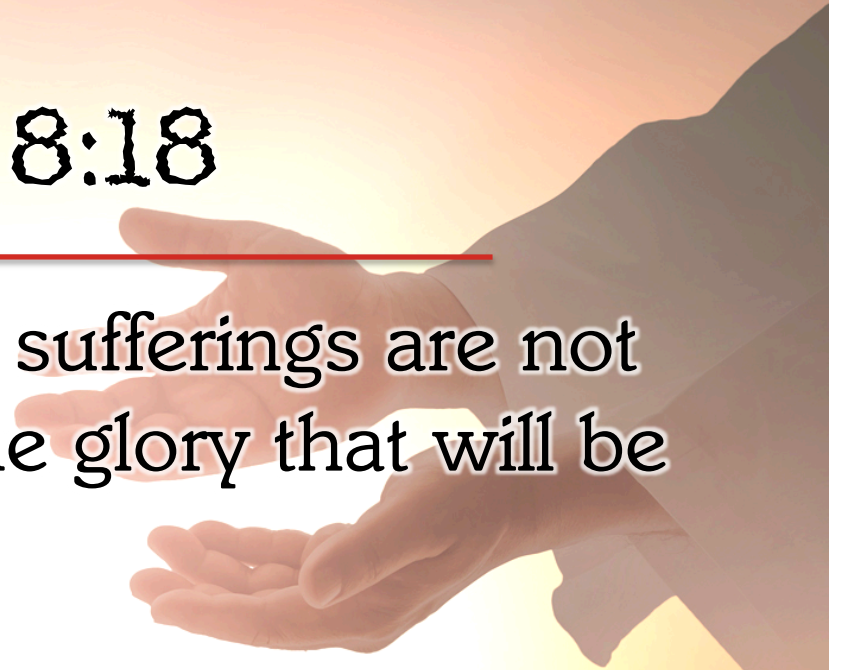
And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.

Luke 6:23

[Jesus]: “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.”

Romans 8:18

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

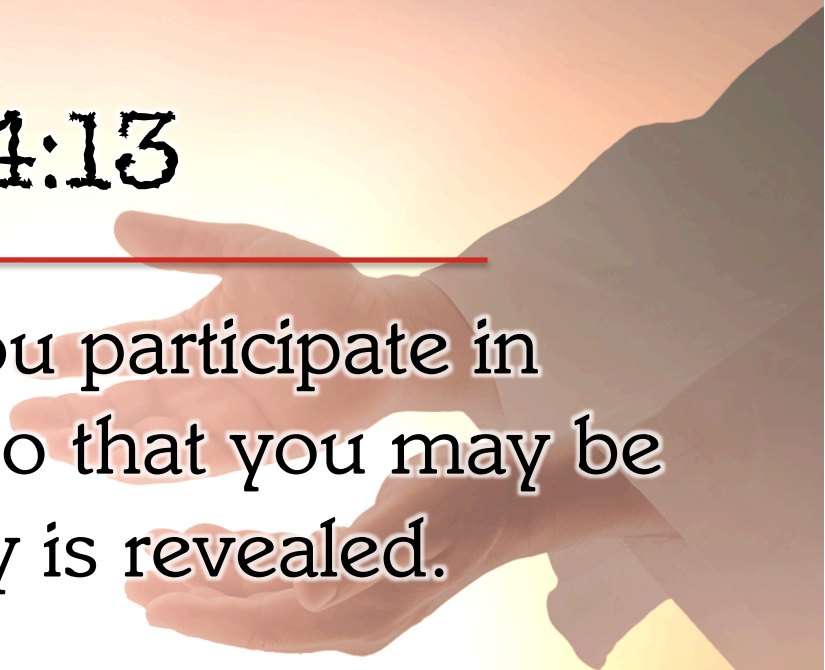


Matthew 5:3-5

[Jesus]: “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

1 Peter 4:13

But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.


A hand is shown holding a glowing, golden orb. The background is a warm, orange and yellow gradient, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. There are also silhouettes of birds flying in the sky.

Luke 14:13-14

[Jesus]: “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

1 Corinthians 15:25-26

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.



Isaiah 25:7

On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Isaiah 25:8

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or
famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C. T. Studd:

“Only one life, ‘twill soon be past;
only what’s done for Christ will last.”

Matthew 6:19-21

[Jesus]: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:33

[Jesus]: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Good devotional questions:



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- ❖ Do you consider your own mortality?
- ❖ Do you consider the eternal destiny of those you know and love?
- ❖ Do you remember that this world as we know it is not your ultimate home?
- ❖ Do you realize that your decisions have a direct influence on the world to come?

What have we learned?

- ❖ We will remain individuals, but we will be transformed.
- ❖ Heaven and earth will be changed, and all of creation will be changed.
- ❖ Some of our favorite things will continue, and others will be replaced with something better.
- ❖ The Lord rewards obedience, faithfulness and generosity.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Two text boxes

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