

# Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for November 14, 2021

## Sermon Notes

### **Behold, I Make All Things New**

Revelation 21: 1-8

You've probably heard this statement: "Some people are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good." C. S. Lewis would not agree. In Mere Christianity he wrote: "A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do.....If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither."

The concluding chapters of Revelation bring us to the end of redemptive history. The last three chapters of Revelation reverse what was corrupted in the first three chapters of Genesis. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and in the end he will create a new heaven and a new earth. In the beginning God visited with humanity in the garden. As the redemption story concludes God once again and forever makes his dwelling place with his redeemed people.

The life that God intended for his people to enjoy in Eden in his first creation will be fulfilled in the life God gives to his people in the new creation. This life will not be some disembodied, cloud-floating, harp-playing existence. It will be a physical, earthly existence in an earth stripped of all the effects of sin and evil. The most important feature of the new creation is this truth: *the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God* (Revelation 21:3). This is the vision that gives us hope. This is the promise that sustains us now and will one day bring us home.

The New Heaven and New Earth: The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (v1)

The Holy City: Covenant, community, and intimacy with God (vv2-3)

The End of Suffering: No more tears, death, mourning, crying and pain (v4)

The Promise: Assurance from Him who is Lord over history (vv5-6)

The Inheritance: God's portion for those who conquer, his warning for those who don't (vv7-8)

Applications:

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## Weekly Discipleship Guide

### Know

**What does God intend for me to know?  
In your journal, use the following prompts to write  
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

### Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?  
In your journal, use the following questions to write  
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

### Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write  
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What is one thing about your life that can be changed to be more "heavenly minded" and enable you to be more effective for "earthly good"?

God wants our true desire and joy to be in Him, and His promise of intimately tabernacling with us is the way we will enjoy and desire Him forever.

How can we cultivate intimacy with God in a society so focused on immediate pleasure, superficiality, and over-activity? What are we doing now to cultivate our desire for Him?

Who do you know in a place of sorrow or misery? How does the reality of the new heaven and earth enable you to speak into this sadness and sorrow?

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

#### Westwood Staff

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