

Thursday, November 12, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
'Behold, 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.
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away."**

Revelation 21: 3-4

We won't know what to do with ourselves when there's nothing left to complain about. Can you imagine the kind of life that Revelation is describing? This is a description of heaven. Some of the best descriptions of heaven in the Bible talk more about what life will NOT be like than what it will be like. It will not be like life as we now know it. Life as we now know it is pretty wrapped up in just trying to make it through the struggles of this world. And when things are going relatively smoothly, we know that there is no guarantee they will stay that way.

When we were young children we were, for the most part, kept from having to worry about the realities of this life. My parents sent me to school at our church's school until the 8th grade, and then to a Catholic High School in order to keep me out of the Pittsburgh public schools, but they never told me about the financial challenge that it was for them to do so. As a kid I was not involved in the conversations my parents must have had about the home finances.

It's when we grow up that we begin to learn about the difficulties of life. And so, for a lot of people, life is seen as a challenge to overcome. So this is why I said earlier, "we won't know what to do with ourselves when there's nothing left to complain about." Or, if you're not a complainer, when there's nothing left to worry about. Or, if you're not a worrier, when there's nothing left to overcome.

Can you imagine what heaven will be like? Complaining and worrying and overcoming will be replaced by true living, worshiping, and loving. This life is temporary. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can say, "Thank God this life is temporary," because those who believe in Jesus as their Savior will one day actually LIVE in the presence of God. He will let us SEE Him as He is. And He will protect us from all the things that made life in this world so difficult. It will be like the ultimate "childhood." We will be letting God be God, and we will be worshiping Him and loving one another. So, for now, we hang onto the promises of God.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim