



Lord's Day Worship

June 21st, 2020

Father's Day Greeting

Song of Praise

"Lord of Hosts (Psalm 46)"

Corporate Scripture Reading

Isaiah 41:13

Elder Greeting

Yusufu Jinkiri

Song of Praise

"Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care"

The Teaching of the Word

Credo – Part 20– "Raised Imperishable"

Song of Response

"Because He Lives"

Benediction

Read or have someone in your home read aloud Jude 24-25.

CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 20

"Life Everlasting"

21 June 2020

Introduction: Wanderers, Homebodies, & Exiles

- While most people enjoy both new experiences through travel and also the familiar confines of home, our hearts tend to be drawn towards one or the other. Both newness and familiarity are often ways that we seek to distract ourselves from what we know to be wrong with both ourselves and the world around us.

"We travel to cultivate our most private instinct, which is that of eternity." — Albert Camus

"Ah! there is nothing like staying at home for real comfort."

—Mrs. Elton (From *Emma*, by Jane Austen)

Heb. 11:13-16—¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
AND IN JESUS CHRIST
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN
FROM THE DEAD
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE
FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.
AMEN.

Key Point: As those who confess faith in the God of Scripture, we come to understand that although we live our lives as exiles in the world, we are heading towards our eternal _____ that is being prepared for us.

The Holy Spirit: His Work

- We believe that the Holy Spirit, who has given us eternal life in Christ, will sustain that life ("life everlasting") throughout all of _____ as we worship and serve our Creator in the New Creation.

Eternal Life Considered

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Rom. 6:23—"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

"eternal"—αἰώνιος (aiōnios)—Pertaining to a period of unending duration, 'without end.'

"life"—ζωή (zōē)—Life in either its physical (biological) or transcendent sense.

"The expression *eternal life* (zōē aiōnios)...means 'life of the age (aiōn) to come', and therefore resurrection life. But in John's Gospel that life may be in some measure experienced before the end...Moreover, those who have read the Prologue [John 1:1-18] will recall that life resides in the Word: 'in him was life' (1:4). The eternal life begun by the new birth is nothing less than the eternal life of the eternal Word."

—D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*

⇒ The word 'eternal' should be understood to emphasize the _____ of the life more so than its duration.

- * Eternal life is identified with the _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:2—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us

John 17:3—And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- * Eternal life is the possession of those who _____ in Him.

John 3:36—Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John 5:24—Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Key Point: The eternal life that we experience now and will experience in consummate fullness in the future is centered on our _____ to our Savior.

"So when we confess that we believe in eternal life, we're not talking [only] about the duration of life, but about a relationship. In the person of Jesus, we find ourselves drawn into a quality of life that is so rich that it can only be described as eternal. Jesus says, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (John 10:10)." —Ben Meyers, *The Apostles' Creed*

⇒ The word 'life' should be understood to emphasize the _____ of knowing and serving our Savior Jesus Christ more so than mere existence.

* We will worship & serve the Lord in the _____ state.

Rev. 5:15-17a—¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water

* We will worship and serve the Lord in His _____ Kingdom.

Matt. 19:28—Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rev. 2:26-27—²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

Rev. 20:4a—Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed.

* We will worship and serve the Lord in His Eternal Kingdom (The _____ Creation)

Observations from Revelation 21-22

1. In the New Creation, God and man will dwell together forever.

Rev. 21:1-3—¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ 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.

2. The coming together of heaven and earth is pictured in the descent of the new Jerusalem.

Rev. 21:10-14—¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rev. 21:22—And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

Rev. 22:3b—...the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it...

3. In the New Creation will have the consummate experience of eternal life.

Rev. 22:1-5—¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Key Point: There are very real, _____ benefits to knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior, both now and in the future.

Rev. 22:14—Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Although we are not 'home' yet, we experience _____ of it even as we live our lives now as exiles.

2. Having eternal life in Christ gives meaning and purpose to the experiences of our lives which would otherwise be _____.