

**“Then I Saw A New Heaven and New Earth”**  
**Revelation 21 & 22 \* September 10, 2006**

- I. When we go through something difficult, what’s a good thing to do?  
**Keep the end in mind.**

*What should we keep in mind about ministry?*

**It’s not a race, but a marathon. And a few miles down the road, those in ministry are tested in some way, and tempted to quit. Keeping these chapters in mind will encourage us to persevere.**

- II. What are the things that will **not** be around on the new earth?

A. There will be no more **outward** evil.

1. “There was no longer any sea” – what does this symbolize to John?

**The sea is where the beast slithered out of in chapter 13. It’s where unknown dangers lurk threatening to overwhelm us from outside us.**

B. There will be no more **inward** evil.

1. “There will be no more night” – what does darkness symbolize to John?

**Inward rebellion and hardness to God. Jesus said in John 8:12 – “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”**

C. There will be no evil **people** there.

1. But we all have evil inside of us. So what does John mean here? Who is an “evil person”? **Christians fight the evil inside of them and try to overcome it. “Evil people” love and practice the evil that they do, not resisting it at all.**

2. Is there ever an “excuse” for sinful behavior?  
**There is never an excuse, only a sacrifice.**

3. Revelation 21 & 22 seems to be contradicting itself, saying on one hand salvation is free, but on the other that we will be judged by our works. How should we make sense of this?

**Two sides of one coin. We will all be judged by works in the end – the question is whose works will I be judged by – Jesus’ works on my behalf or my own.**

- III. What things will be found in the new heaven and new earth?

A. There will be eternal **life**, lasting **joy**, and unending **beauty**.

1. What is the one constant in the old order of things?  
**Death, from the tiniest cell to the largest star, everything dies.**

2. How does John describe the beauty of heaven?  
**He uses every precious jewel possible to describe the beauty of the new Jerusalem.**

B. There will be **people** and loved-**ones**, family and **friends**.

1. What does John mean that the gates of the city have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel on them, and the foundation has the names of the 12 apostles?  
**The entire company of the redeemed – both Old and New Testaments – will be there.**

2. What is one of the hardest parts to this life?  
**Have to say goodbye to those we love – we won’t need to do this in heaven.**

*C. And the best part of heaven – we will find the physical presence of **God**.*

*1. What else is very hard about this life?*

**Always having to grope for God, wondering if he's really there, 'seeing through the glass darkly'; but once we see Him, we'll no longer have to walk by faith instead of sight or stand on the promises – because we'll be standing next to Him.**

*IV. The Final Prayer Of The Bible – “**Come**, Lord Jesus”*

*A. But there's one reason why he hasn't yet, and why this age of sin gets strung out – what is it?*

**There are still others out there who have a home waiting for them in the New Jerusalem but they haven't been invited yet.**

*B. Before we say, “Come, Lord Jesus”, whom else must we say “Come” to?*

**The lost ones who still need to be found.**

*C. My response to the book of Revelation:*

**I cannot read Revelation and then run & hide under my bed. Instead I must “take it to the streets”.**

**Revelation compels me to ask myself:**

**What am I going to live for?**

**What is going to be first in my life?**

**Will I be just a Resource-Taker or will I be a Difference-Maker?**