



Preacher: Paul McMahon

Title: Back to Your Future

Date: 17/10/2021 Sunday

Key Scripture: Genesis 3: 1

Notes:

Personal Response:

What Is Your Final Destination?

A question often asked at the commencement of most journeys - when it's over, where do you expect to be?

The Bible:

As we heard the other day, the Bible is a journey and as such it has two very important aspects to it - A BEGINNING - AN ENDING.

The Ending - Revelation 21:1-8

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His ^{4a}people, and God Himself will be among them^{4b}, ⁴and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He ⁶said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶Then He said to me, "^{6a}It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give *water* to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost. ⁷The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. ⁸But for the cowardly, and ^{8a}unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and sexually immoral persons, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and ^{8b}brimstone, which is the second death."

The climax of the journeys end is to hear those most glorious words: To the one who overcomes they shall inherit all these things and I will be their God - they shall be My son!

Our final destination is not just a place - heaven; but the culmination of a life's journey where we discover the depth of a relation - God is our God, and a position of authority - I am His son!

A Son:

One who through the Holy Spirit working in them what Christ has accomplished for them, has grown up and matured to become in every way like Jesus Christ - the perfect Son!

As part of our journey, we are revisiting two very important biblical truths that are absolutely essential if we are truly to arrive. As sons at our 'final destination', they are -

Covenant And Kingdom

Covenant

Covenant could be defined as - an unchangeable bond or agreement which God established in order to join His people to Himself. He sets the terms and conditions and invites mankind to respond and enter or reject and forfeit the blessings continued there in.

Kingdom

Is a realm or sphere that is governed or ruled by a King. Gods Kingdom is entered through a fully surrendered life which acknowledges that Jesus Christ is Lord and continues to live accordingly.

Back To Your Future

To get both a picture and help in arriving at that ultimate destination, we need to go back to the beginning so that we can press on to our future.

The Journey

In order to be successful, most journeys have 4 key questions that need answering:

- 1) Where am I going?
- 2) How do I get there?
- 3) Where am I now?
- 4) What do I do next?

Where Am I Going?

That's already been stated – Rev 21 gives us a clear picture of our final destination – where we take our seat with Christ at the heavenly table as sons with divine authority.

How Do I Get There?

Genesis 1: 27-28

²⁷ So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that ^lmoves on the earth.”

Here God is commencing our Journey with what has often been called –

The Covenant of Dominion.

We are made in His image and as such, we are being developed to become rulers in this world in preparation for rulership in the world that's yet to come.

Genesis 2:15-17

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it.

¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat;

¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not ^leat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.”

In order for Covenant and Kingdom life to be developed we have to learn to obey Gods instructions as the ‘Maker knows best’.

Genesis 3:1 – 7

³ Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”

² The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”

¹ The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die!

⁵For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will ⁶become like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave *some* to her husband with her, and he ate.

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves waist coverings.

Which Tree Are You Feeding From?

In order to arrive at the place God has prepared for us the key is: The Tree you feed from is

The Key To Your Destiny.

The Tree Of Knowledge Of Good And Evil:

This Tree - looks good - it will feed me - very appealing, a delight to the eyes and this could help me make good choices in life. The problem - the fruit of this tree produces something called 'death'. Death is not extinction but separation - this tree for all its attractiveness will only lead one place - separation from the life of God.

How many today are feeding from this tree - making decisions based on how things work and what it does for me without ever enquiring, is this really what God has for me.

Anything - absolutely anything that draws you away from a meaningful relationship with God, no matter how attractive. Eating from this tree will only lead to death!

Tree Of Life:

4 John 1:4

⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind.

Jesus Christ is life - He is the Tree of Life and for God to be my God and for me to be a son, I must start and continue to feed on Him continuously if I

am to arrive at my final destination - there is no other way!

Where Am I Now?

Now is the time to learn how to feed from Christ our tree of life.

Feeding From Christ Through

1) His Word

No one going to a restaurant gets their hunger satisfied by just reading the menu. We have to get to the food, chew it, until taken, it becomes part of us.

Do we read His word like a menu - we like what's on offer but never get to taste the real thing?

Don't just read it out but - consider it, pray over it, meditate on it and most of all obey it; these are key ways to feed on Jesus - Our tree of life.

2) His Spirit

The Holy Spirit is absolutely indispensable if I truly want to get to that ultimate destiny. He takes the truth and works it into our inner - most being until it becomes a living reality. This is why we need Him to fill us and to stay filled up. There's no fuel shortage in the Kingdom of God. There is as much of the Spirit as you can currently handle.

His Ministries:

Ephesians 4:11 -

¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as ^{pl}pastors and teachers.

Why are these gifts given to the church?

- 1) To equip
- 2) Build Up
- 3) To produce unity of faith
- 4) To know Jesus
- 5) To help grow up
- 6) To bring us to a full measure of Jesus

They are here to help get us to that final destination. Where you know the Lord and you have become like Jesus Christ. Let's make sure we don't get stuck at some false finishing line - it's not over until us as individuals and the church as a whole. Is truly a manifestation in the world of the life of Jesus Christ - Him and us - Looking like one!!

His People:

We can feed on Jesus as we learn to interact with one another. As we bless, encourage, help, pray and love one another. These are all key ways in which we can continually feed on that tree of life.

What Now?

Cultivate A Covenant Relationship

Make it your prayer, the pursuance of your heart and life to truly get to know Him as your God, your Father and your King.

If you seek Him with all your heart. You will find Him.

Operate In A Kingdom Realm or Rule:

Seek to discover not only what Jesus has done for you but who He has made you in your relationship to Him. This is where true spiritual authority flows from - find it - use it - continue in it.

Close-

Read this prayer of Pauls from Ephesians and then make it your own.

Ephesians 1:15 - 23 (TPT)

¹⁵For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and ¹⁶your love for all the ¹⁷saints, ¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the ¹⁸knowledge of Him. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart ¹⁹may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the ²⁰saints, ¹⁹and what is the ²⁰boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and made Him head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.