

## Pray

### Intro Daydreaming

- The Blizzard flavor
- A new basketball move
- Relaxing at the beach
- How I can make discretionary income or more seriously
- Better family life
- Getting married
- Having a family

Underneath all the daydreaming communicates a yearning, more specifically a Hope of something better and greater in life. Paul tells us that **Hope** is one of the greatest Christian virtues (1 Cor. 13:13) and applicably for Christians, we Hope in the promises of God that includes the promise that this life isn't our final destination. Here's what Augustine and C.S. Lewis has to say about the Hope for our Future.

Augustine in his **Handbook on Faith, Hope and Love** says this about Hope.

*"Now the virtue, by which the will is so perfected, is the theological virtue of hope. It is commonly defined as a Divinely infused virtue, by which we trust, with an unshaken confidence grounded on the Divine assistance, to attain life everlasting."*

In his book **Mere Christianity** C.S. Lewis says *"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. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven."*

Both Augustine and Lewis are alluding to our hope of a New Heaven and New Earth, our actual final destination. The destination we read about in Revelation 21 says "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. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:1-2).

Does this seem too ethereal or intangible to anyone?

So what does God do? He gives us chapter after chapter of poetic language of love as we've been seeing throughout the past few weeks and now that we're headed to the end of the book of Isaiah, God is once again giving us a poetic writing of love and hope a picture of the future, the blueprints of what life will look like when all things are made new! He wants to give his people hope!

### The Creator at work v.17-18

- The Hebrew word “create” in Isaiah 65:17 בָּרָא (vo·v·re) is the same word used in Genesis when God was creating, forming, fashioning all things.
- Not only is God creating, but strange and amazing things are happening. **One of them being that the past events will not be remembered or come to mind.**
  - This teaching continues from an earlier passage in v.16 when we see a “Divine Forgetfulness” and biblical scholar **Alec Motyer** says, “the former troubles or brokenness will not be remembered by God because he is faithful to his promises. So we get to benefit and receive from God’s “Divine Forgetfulness” to bring to life the v.17 that says “the past events will not be remembered or come to mind.”
  - This is not some sort of blacking out and waking up to not remembering what was or used to be. It’s a picture of something fading away into imperceptible amounts because what is being experienced so much dwarfs what used to be.

### But can you even imagine? v.19-23

- Are you having a hard time being excited about the truth that God is creating again?
- **It’ll be a place where...**
  - **Your relationships with everyone including God will forever be full of joy and delight without pain and suffering. V.19-20**
  - **The Bible tells us that the New Heaven and New Earth will also be a place where your labor will always be fruitful. v.21-23**
    - No fruitless work
  - **Lastly, the passage teaches us that the earth and everything in it will live in perfect peace. v.24-25**

### You gotta be excited now, so now what should you do? Application

- If you’re not yet a Christian, what do you believe?
  - Do you believe that this is it and your best life is now?
  - Do you believe that you’ll be good enough to reach nirvana at some point?
  - Do you live as though tomorrow is guaranteed?
  - A new life in Christ is awaiting for you.
- If you’re a Christian,
  - **Receive** the Hope God provides through his promises.
  - **Share** the gospel, be the messenger of Hope to help others get to a greater destination than where they are headed.
  - **Imagine** the New Heavens and New Earth and let that lead you to praying for God’s kingdom to come here and now.