



## Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Death, Glorification, Unification: What happens to our Body, Soul and Spirit?”

Lesson 16 – Being a Part of the New Earth is a Great Motivation

July 9, 2017

### I. **Lesson Starter:**

Last week we studied about our resurrected bodies being part of the New Earth. We also reviewed what scripture tells us about different characteristics of the New Earth and eternity with our God. Today we will be looking at how the splendor and beauty of the New Creation should provide a tremendous motivation for us to store up treasures in Heaven rather than earth.

### II. **The New Creation Will Last an Eternity**

As we consider that our current earth, life and situation are only a temporary part of our eternal journey, we should be strongly motivated for godly living and serving our God. Living in such a way that will store up treasures in heaven as opposed to earth. While discussing the current heaven and earth to be destroyed, Peter says:

#### **2 Peter 3:10-12**

***<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.***

Jesus himself was very clear in saying:

#### **Matthew 6:19-21**

***<sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

### III. **The New Creation Will Be a Place of Great Beauty, Abundance and Joy**

While we have so many questions about the specifics of the New Heaven and New Earth, we must not lose sight of the fact that scriptures consistently portray it as a place of great beauty and joy. We have reviewed Revelations 21 and 22 in the past, but it bears mentioning again:

- 21:2 Holy City
- 21:2 Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband
- 21:4 No more mourning, crying, pain,
- 21:6 Drink from the Fountain of the water of life
- 21:11 God’s glory is a radiance like a rare jewel, clear as crystal
- 21:16 City of immense size 1400 miles wide, long and high
- 21:18 City constructed of immense precious jewels
- 21:27 Free from all evil, only those written in the Lamb’s Book of Life

But more importantly than all of the physical beauty, we will be in **God’s actual presence** and have direct fellowship with Him into eternity!!! While freedom from pain, suffering, sorrow all seem so wonderful while we are in this life, and also reigning over the New Earth sounds superb; these things **will pale into insignificance in God’s direct presence**. We will be enjoying unhindered fellowship with God!

### **Revelation 21:3-5**

***<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”...***

In the Old Testament, when the glory of God was in the temple, they were unable to even stand and minister (2 Chron. 5:14). This will be the fulfillment of God’s purpose to call us “**to his own glory and excellence**” (2 Peter 1:3). By dwelling with Him, we will also fulfill multiple scriptures as “**the presence of his glory with rejoicing**” (Jude 1:24; Romans 3:23, 8:18, 9:23; 1 Cor. 15:43; 2 Cor. 3:18, 4:17; Col 3:4; 1 Thes. 2:12; Heb 2:10; 1 Peter 5:1, 4, 10)

Our greatest joy will come from seeing God himself and being in His presence for eternity.

### **Revelation 22:1-5**

***1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.***

When we can finally look into the face of God, we will see in him the fulfillment of everything that we know good and right and desirable.

### **Psalms 16:11**

***11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.***

### **Psalms 73:24-28**

***24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. <sup>28</sup> But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds***

## **IV. Group Questions:**

1. In 2 Peter 3:10-12 and Matthew 6:19-21; discuss why the “Eternal Nature of the New Earth and Heaven” should be a motivator for our earthly actions and desires?
2. With this powerful message, why then does it seem so hard for us to follow these scriptures?
3. Which descriptions of the New Creation listed from Revelations 21 means the most to you and why?
4. Everyone close their eyes. Have the leader now read the following “Imagine and use your best visualization, You are Looking into the face of God...You are by Him...You are close to Him...You can feel his glory...Be still and let God fill you!