

## I. Correcting misconceptions of life to come

- **Questions:** What will life after life after death be like? What is a Christian's future? What will it be like?
  - Consider the movie Moana, do you remember what her tribe's understanding of afterlife was? Her grandmother thought you would return to this earth as an animal. She wanted to return to be a sting ray. To me, this is crazy but some of you maybe confused about life after life after death like her.
  - Maybe you are bored with life to come because you think all we will be doing is floating on a cloud playing a harp singing songs to God.
  - Maybe you think heaven is like a never-ending church service.
- It's not: life without a body, floating on a cloud, strumming a harp with see-through fingers. That is longing for less of life.

(**Transition:** God promises full life in the life to come. A full life is experienced in a body)

- Consider **1 John 3:2**- "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."
  - **Question:** So Mary birthed Jesus. Jesus grew in stature and knowledge. He died a death on a cross. He was raised from the dead into a glorified body. Before he ascended into heaven, what was his body like?
    - Consider **Matthew 28:9-10 & Luke 24:36-43**. Jesus' resurrection body was like his former body in that He looked the same. His resurrection body was not ghost form. The woman touched his feet. The disciples touched his hands and feet. Jesus asked for food. He ate food like he did before. Our resurrected bodies (bodies in the life to come) will be like his. We will have a body at Home on the New Earth.
    - **Point:** New earth is boring when you think about our experience being in ghost form. We will have a body and better yet, we will recognize one another.
- It is: life in a glorified body that will actually function the way it was created to. And we will live on Earth as the Lord created it.

(**Transition:** "Because we misunderstand heaven and New Earth, where we are heading, and the satisfaction we will ultimately experience there, we try to scratch this itchy homesickness by refashioning this wasteland into a true home.")

## II. Challenging our sin

- **Question:** How do you think our misunderstanding of the life to come impacts our life today?
- Listen again to the quote: "Because we misunderstand heaven and New Earth, where we are heading, and the satisfaction we will ultimately experience there, we try to scratch this itchy homesickness by refashioning this wasteland into a true home." **Respond.**
  - We ask of this world what it cannot provide. "Of all the cursed things we suffer in this sinful world, our discontentment is one of the worst." Our expectations are never met. Even though we know this to be true, we allow our minds to be distracted by the attraction of wealth, honors, acceptance, success. Even though we know that there will always at least be slight discontentment, we tend to still be enamored by building our college application and success. We lose sight of the hope we have in the life to come. We ask of this world what it cannot give which is complete satisfaction. There is a word for this: foolishness. We are foolish for continuing to seek things that will not satisfy. Our foolishness blinds us from seeing no farther than Earth.
  - In this life, there is nothing that will completely satisfy. All things come to an end. Holidays end. Vacations come to an end. The party has a stop time. The championship confetti is awesome but the excitement wanes. The applause stops. What we really need, and what are really longing for, is a perfect relationship with the living God that is to come.
- **Question:** The party will not end. The satisfaction and good feeling never goes away. Read **Psalms 63:1**, does this describe your longing for Home? Or what does it describe?

## III. Conclusion

- For the rest of the semester, I want us to obtain a clear picture of what our coming life will be like so that "you would thirst for it like you never have before and to prepare you, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to live a life here keeping your life there in view, understanding that much of the discontent you experience now flows out of homesickness and will only be answered when you are truly Home."

next week, While we will seek to be true to the Bible, we will be speculating and awakening our imagination

- “But for God’s children the real party await- think of the father making merry and celebrating with a feast for the prodigal son”