Afterlife — The New Heavens and Earth

September 3, 2017

When was the last time you moved? Do you remember the thrill of exploring a new town and of moving into a new home? If you weren't thrilled by the newness of a town and home as an adult, do you remember how thrilling it was to move when you were a child? Do you remember sitting on your bed in your new home on move-in day and drinking in the thrill of your new home?

One day, each of us will have the feelings of excitement that go with moving into a new home. It won't be an earthly home. It will be the thrill of moving into our eternal home in the new heavens and new earth in a city called the new Jerusalem.

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you that where I am you may also be." I have no doubt we will remember our move-in day for eternity when we arrive at our eternal home. If we love the thrill of a new home and a new city now, I imagine the thrill of our new home in eternity will be beyond imagination.

If you are new, I would like to welcome you. My name is Kurt. I am one of

the pastors. At CrossWinds we are in a series called Afterlife: What does the Bible say about life after death? In previous weeks, we covered the great tribulation, the return of Christ and what will happen when Jesus gives us resurrection bodies. We looked at the Millennium, which is the earthly reign

of Christ. We learned we will reign

with Christ and under Christ on this

earth for a thousand years while Satan and his demonic hordes are out of the picture. We also learned there would be a release of Satan at the end of the Millennium followed by his final defeat and confinement to the lake of fire, that is hell, for eternity.

We studied the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium, where all who die apart from Christ will be resurrected and judged by their works before being sent to the lake of fire. Last week, we looked at the Judgment Seat of Christ at the beginning of the Millennium after we receive our resurrection bodies. At that judgement Jesus will reward us based on how we live. We learned we are only saved by God's grace but we are rewarded in eternity based on works. How a Christian lives matters. It determines not his or her salvation — we are saved by the grace of Christ alone — but his or her eternal rewards.

This morning we look at the last big part of our Afterlife timeline which is called the new heavens, the new earth. That is our final home.

Before we look at the new heavens and earth, to give you a frame of reference, I want to show you how the Bible is structured.

Creation Past → **Creation Present** → **New Creation Future**

The first two chapters of the Bible describe the creation of this world. They describe life before sin. From Genesis 3 to Revelation 20 we



have the problem of sin and God's solution for sin, which is his son, Jesus. The last two chapters of Revelation describe the future creation of a new heavens and earth. The first two chapters of the Bible and the last two chapters of the

Bible act like bookends. They describe the creation of this world in the past, and they describe the creation of a new world in the future. The rest of the Bible fills in the details of what happens in between.

The exciting part is when we compare the first two chapters of Genesis with the last two chapters of Revelation we find there is continuity them. Our world now will have many similarities to the new heavens and earth in the future. God will not just restore this earth after Satan's final defeat to what it was like before sin entered the world in Genesis 1 and 2 but he will renew this world plus vastly improve it. This is the theme we will follow this morning. Our God is a restoration specialist. He doesn't just renew what was ruined by sin but he renews it and vastly improves it.

We first saw this theme when, in the second week of our study, we saw what God promises to do with our bodies. In Genesis we have original sinless Adam and Eve. After sin was introduced into the world, people died. Death dominated the earth. Christians die because of sin in this world. God promises to takes our selfsame bodies that are rotten in the grave and resurrect them back to life. He won't just bring our bodies back to what they were but he vastly improves them. He will upgrade our current weak bodies to be like Christ's resurrection body. Instead of our bodies being know for weakness, the Bible tells us our resurrection bodies will be known for power. Instead of our bodies being susceptible to sickness and fading with age, they will be immortal and we will live forever, just like Christ's resurrection body. We will get resurrected eternal bodies that are not just restored but they are vastly improved.

In a similar way, Genesis 1 and 2 describe a perfect, sin-free earth.

Genesis 3 forward describes the earth in bondage to sin. As we will see in

Revelation 21 and 22, God will give us the sin-free earth of Genesis 1 and 2 back
again but just like he will vastly improve our bodies when he resurrects them,

God will resurrect and vastly improve this earth when he makes it into the new
creation.

Let me give you a third example of God not just restoring things to their pre-sin state but vastly improving things. In Genesis 1 and 2, God was in heaven but he walked in the Garden with Adam and Eve. He came for visits. From Genesis 3 forward, man is cut off from God because of sin. God set out to restore that broken relationship with Jesus. In Revelation 21 and 22, God doesn't just walk with man once again but then he will live with man as God fuses heaven and earth together. Once again God will restore what was lost to sin, plus he will vastly improve things.

When God fixes things that are broken, he makes them better than they were before. The bookends of the Bible show us this creation and the next creation are connected together but the new creation that is our final home is vastly improved compared to this creation. Let's see how this unfolds.

The New Heaven and Earth

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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he

who was seated on the throne said, <u>"Behold, I am making all things new."</u> Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:1–5 (ESV)

God will create a new heaven and new earth because the current heaven and earth will passed away.

What is wrong with our current heaven and earth? Why can't we take our current planet and solar system into eternity?

1. The earth cannot be our final home because it is under the curse of sin.

The Bible tells us when sin entered the world, it didn't infect people, it infected the planet.

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' <u>cursed is the ground because of you</u>; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life..." Genesis 3:17 (ESV)

The reason we spray for weeds is because they are out of control due to sin. The reason the cells in our body multiply out of control so we have cancer is because of sin in the creation. The reason we don't have gentle, life-giving rain in Texas but torrential flooding rains that take life is because of sin. Much more than our souls are in bondage to sin. Creation is in bondage to sin. That is why creation fights against us instead of working with us.

...that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Romans 8:21 (ESV)

Our current creation is in bondage to corruption. The planet and the universe anxiously wait to be freed from bondage to sin, decay and corruption.

2. The Old Testament talks about the destruction of this creation due to sin.

The Old Testament talks about the future destruction of this present heaven and earth because it is imbued by sin.

Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away... Psalm 102:25–26 (ESV)

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; <u>for the heavens vanish like smoke</u>, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed. Isaiah 51:6 (ESV)

3. Jesus talked about the destruction of this creation due to sin.

Jesus was well aware that this current heaven and earth would one day pass away, and he mentioned it in his teaching.

<u>Heaven and earth will pass away</u>, but my words will not pass away. Matthew 24:35 (ESV)

4. The Apostle Peter talked about the destruction of this creation due to sin.

The Apostle Peter had what is probably the strongest statement on what will happen to this creation because of sin infecting this world, not just people.

But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But

according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:7–13 (ESV)

If you are listening closely, you will realize I caught you on the horns of a dilemma. Earlier I told you God will renew the earth but these verses appear to say this earth is so polluted by sin that God will need to destroy it before he can create a new heaven and earth.

Has sin so polluted the earth that God must destroy the earth and create a new one? Does God need to destroy this creation in order to make another sinfree creation?

I don't think so.

5. If God is forced to destroy the universe because of sin, Satan won a tremendous victory.

If God needs to completely destroy the universe to remove the effects of sin in the universe, Satan won a tremendous victory. Satan didn't succeed in destroying the matter in our bodies, because God resurrects our selfsame bodies. If God can resurrect the matter in our bodies and transform our bodies to be without sin for eternity, why couldn't he also transform the universe to be free from sin for eternity? If God could not redeem and resurrect this planet, but he could redeem and resurrect our bodies, Satan found the limits of God's strength.

If you think about it, God destroying this universe because of sin instead of redeeming and resurrecting the universe would be inconsistent with the way God operates.

Throughout the Bible we see God reconciling, restoring, redeeming, renewing, and resurrecting. All these suggest God loves to take what was ruined

by sin and bring it back to life. Most of Jesus' miracles were miracles of restoration or redeeming the damage done by sin.

In our second week of this series, when we looked at our resurrection bodies, we learned God will not allow Satan and sin to have a victory over our bodies by death but it is the very selfsame bodies we have today that Jesus will raise from the dead and transform into resurrection bodies, just as was done with Jesus. If God will not allow Satan and sin to have victory over the matter contained in Jesus' body and the matter contained in our bodies, why would God be forced to give Satan victory over the rest of the matter in the universe?

6. If God can resurrect our bodies free from sin, he can resurrect the universe free from sin.

The same Peter that wrote the verses we read in 2 Peter said in the book of Acts.

...whom heaven must receive until the time <u>for restoring all the things</u> about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Acts 3:21 (ESV)

Peter said there is coming not a complete destruction of all things but ultimately a renewal of all things. Just as the matter of our bodies will one day be resurrected free of sin, the matter of this universe will one day be resurrected free from sin.

I think the way to understand this is to simply read the verses surrounding 2 Peter.

For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:5–7 (ESV)

The passage draws a parallel between the way the earth in the time of Noah was destroyed and purified of sin by the flood and the coming time when the earth will be destroyed and purified not just with water but it will be destroyed and purified at a much deeper level, by fire. Did the destruction of the flood eliminate the earth? No! It purified the earth. Will the destruction of this earth by fire eliminate it or purify it at a much deeper level? The deepest cleansing of this planet from sin would not involve water but it would involve fire, as the very elements of the world would be melted and purified just like metal is purified and dross is removed from metal by means of fire. In the same way God will use fire to purify remove all remnants of the dross of sin in this creation. Once the virus of sin is removed from the fabric of creation by fire, God will then rebuild this creation starting with the same blueprint of the old creation.

7. "New" means in line with the old but vastly improved.

One of the keys to understanding this is the word "new" used in this passage. When God says, "I make all things new," it is the Greek word *kainos*. That means new in quality and superior in character. It means new in the sense there is continuity with the old but it is so vastly improved that the old is completely obsolete.

While all examples break down, imagine this one. Who here had the original iPhone? When it came out it was the greatest technological breakthrough that everybody wanted. Today the iPhone 1 is obsolete. We have the iPhone 7, which is in line with the original iPhone but it is so improved that the original iPhone is not even desired any more.

That is what the Greek word for "new" means in this passage. When Jesus makes all things "new," they are new in the sense they are in line with the old but they are so vastly improved that the old is not remembered. The new creation will be this creation completely purified from sin on the atomic level but God will rebuild this creation off the blueprint of this creation so it is in line with this universe but it will be so vastly improved that it will make this universe obsolete, just like God will do with our resurrection bodies.

Let's think this through. This means the new creation will have dirt. It will have water. It will have trees just like our current creation. The water in the new creation will be purer than anything you have ever known. The trees will be more beautiful than you have ever seen. The apples, peaches and pears will be more flavorful and more beautiful. We will eat in the new creation but it will taste better than anything we have ever enjoyed. The finest meal we eat today will taste like cardboard compared to the flavor of an ordinary meal in the new creation. In the new creation will have mountains to explore and lakes in which we can swim. We will have trails to hike and trees to climb, but all of it will be vastly improved. The water in the new creation will be so clear that we will be able to see everything in vivid color under water in front of us. We will be able to swim in the water without fear of sharks. In this creation, we have pets. In the new creation we will have animals that are our friends. The animals in the new creation will be more beautiful than any animals on this earth. If you like the taste of sweet corn now, imagine what it will taste like in our resurrected bodies in a resurrected, sin-free creation that is vastly improved?

How many of you like to travel? You will have eternity to travel in physical bodies in a new earth of dazzling beauty in every direction the eye can see.

Simply looking at the beauty in the new creation will explode our senses with wonder and excitement.

Take everything you love in this creation, strip it free of sin and make it exponentially better. That will be our eternal home.

What will make our new home even better is that God's home and our home will be combined. Heaven and earth will be combined forever. God will live with us on a resurrected earth as we are in resurrected bodies. Can you imagine this?

One thing absent in the new creation are seas. Why is that? When we think of seas, we think of a day at the beach. We think of surfing, seafood and fishing. In the ancient world, when people thought of the sea, joy isn't what came to mind. The seas in the ancient world were frightful. The seas were known as the watery grave. Seas separated people from loved ones. Boats in the ancient world had no compass or radar. Their frail ships were at the mercy of tempestuous seas. Seas represented disorder and chaos. The idea of no seas was positive because they saw that as no chaos, no barriers between people, no watery grave.

The New Jerusalem

In the new creation, where we dwell with God, there is a capital city called the New Jerusalem. As we continue reading in Revelation 21, we read a travel brochure of the city that will be our eternal home.

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase. the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:9–27 (ESV)

1. Jesus is preparing an amazing place for us in the new Jerusalem.

The first thing we need to know is who will prepare our home in this city. It is Jesus.

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. John 14:2–3 (ESV)

Jesus tells us he is preparing a place for us. The day when the new heaven and earth arrives and the new Jerusalem is set on the face of the earth as the capital city of the new creation, there will be a place in the city with your

name on it, prepared for you by Jesus. That will be our move-in day. It will be a day we won't forget.

Just as the new creation is in line with our current creation but it is beyond description, in the same way the new Jerusalem is in line with this creation but it is beyond description in beauty.

But, as it is written, "What <u>no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.</u>" 1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV)

2. The city is described as having staggering size and beauty.

Fifteen times in Revelation 21 and 22 the place where God and his people live together is described as a city. Some people think of this city as metaphorical. Do you think it is real or imaginary? I believe it is a real place. Why not? First, we will have real, physical, resurrection bodies. Second, we will live on a real, physical, resurrected earth. Why wouldn't we live in a real physical new Jerusalem as the capital city? Remember our resurrected bodies will take up space. The new creation takes up space. Why wouldn't the new Jerusalem take up real space?

As for size, the city will be 12,000 stadia on each side. That is approximately 1,400 miles per side. If the dimensions are literal, the city would stretch from Canada to Mexico and from the Appalachian Mountains to the California border. Since the city's height is the same as its width and length, it appears to be in the form of a perfect cube. Interestingly, the holy of holies in the Old Testament tabernacle was also in the form of a perfect cube. With walls 1,400 miles high, if each story in the city was 12 feet tall, that would leave 600,000 stories. At that size you could put 20 billion people in the city, giving

each of them 75 acres of space. The point will be there is plenty of room for all of God's people for all of eternity in this city.

The gates of the city will be so far apart that some Bible scholars wonder if each gate will open to a different country, or perhaps even radically different landscapes. Imagine people of every nationality, color and racing going into and out of this massive city that explodes with light and color.

The city will be adorned by all kinds of precious stones. Geologists tell us these stones are some of the hardest substances on earth. That tells us the greatness of protection God gives his people. These stones are also some of the most beautiful. At the very least, the precious stones represent the incredible wealth and the exorbitant riches of God's splendor. I picture this city infused with light and bathed in color from the precious stones.

The gates of the city will always be open because, while the city will be well-protected, there will be nothing in the new creation to protect the city from.

All of the enemies of God's kingdom will have been thrown into the lake of fire.

When I first read about God's great city, I will admit I wasn't as thrilled as I should have been. When I think of a city, I think of dirt, poverty, homelessness, crime, pollution, sirens and traffic. None of that will be part of this city. All the benefits of a city will be present without all of the detriments of sin. A city is a center for culture. It is a place where people work together. In the city you find music, art, fine dining and friendship. In a city you find the best humanity has to offer as people work together. Remember God's story line. He takes what was good and but was ruined by sin, restores it and vastly improves it. God won't just

take us back to the Garden of Eden but he will vastly improve on the garden with the city of the new Jerusalem.

In this city there will be no temple. There will be no house of worship, because each of us will go directly to God for worship.

There will be no sun in the new creation because the brilliance of the glory of Jesus in the center of the city won't just illuminate the city but it will light up the entire new creation. There will be no night because Jesus' brilliance will shine forever.

Interestingly, there apparently will still be nations on the earth because they will surround the city. The Bible tells us the nations of the earth will bring in their glory and splendor.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:1–5 (ESV)

In the center of the city, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb right through the middle of the city streets will be the water of life. Since a river flows downhill, it gives us the picture that the interior of the city might be constructed like a mountain. Water always flows downhill and the river of the water of life will flow downhill from the throne of God and the Lamb in the center of the city, throughout the city. Water flowing from the throne of God may not catch our attention, but in the ancient near east, which is a desert world, water was

essential. Water is the source of life. The picture is that water, which is the source of all life, will flow from the throne of God. God will sustain all life in his new creation. Remember we will have real bodies and this will be real water. Ghosts don't need water. In our resurrected bodies, this will be real water we will need and enjoy. God is the one who quenches our thirst and sustains our lives.

In addition, the tree of life will be located on either side of the river. We first saw the tree of life in Genesis 1 and 2. Revelation 2:7 tells us the tree of life was relocated to Paradise after the fall of man. Then the tree of life will come back on the new earth

The picture we get is in the center of the city will be a mountain upon which God the Father and the Son dwell. The water of life will flow from this throne to give life to everything in the city. Surrounding the God the Father and Jesus will be a garden where the tree of life will be found.

It says the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. We know that no sickness will be found in the new creation. What does it mean to heal the nations? The Greek work for healing is *therapia* from which we get our word therapy. It means "health giving." It means the leaves of the tree will give health and vitality to the people of the world. It doesn't mean they will cure sickness, because sickness will not exist. The leaves will bring life and vitality.

We will see the face of God.

What is most amazing of all is when it says we will see God's face. Ancient theologians called this the beatific vision. That is Latin for the happy-making sight. Now I know seeing God's face is probably not on the top of your wish list but after I explain it to you, it will be.

The one thing people were never allowed to see until these final verses in the Bible is the face of God. Even Moses, when he asked to see God in Exodus was only allowed to see God's back, or you could say the afterglow of his presence. Moses never saw God's face. Paul described God this way.

...who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 1 Timothy 6:16 (ESV)

When Revelation 22:4 says we will see the face of God, this should make us sit up and take notice. We will be able to see God and live.

Seeing the face of God will be the most joy-filled moment of our existence.

All other joys we experience in this life or eternity are nothing compared to the joy of seeing God's face.

You make known to me the path of life; <u>in your presence there is fullness of joy;</u> at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

God is the creator of all joy in this world. The closer we are to God, the more joy we will experience. The Psalmist says the presence of God is *full* joy. That means complete and total joy is found in God's presence. Being with him is never-ending pleasure. We will see God's face, which is the maximum amount of joy than can be experienced. We will gaze into the fountainhead of all pleasure.

Think of it this way. When you are sick, a friend brings you a tasty meal.

The meal gives you joy but it points back to a much greater joy, which is seeing the face of the friend who made the meal because he or she loves you. All of the pleasures we enjoy in life today point us back to the one who created those pleasures and gave them to us as a gift. God made pleasure for us to enjoy.

Seeing the face of God is pressing your face into the creator of all joy and

pleasure. There is nothing more joy-filled and satisfying in this world than seeing the face of God.

Today, when you enjoy the pleasure of a good meal, thank God for his good gift and anticipate the day when you will see the face of the one who created food and tastebuds all for our joy. When you enjoy marital intimacy, pause and thank God for his good gift and anticipate the day when you will see the face of the one that created us as sexual beings and who created the pleasure of intimacy. One day we will experience even greater joy as we see God's face.

The theme we started with rings true again. Adam and Eve walked with God. Our relationship with God will finally be restored plus it will be vastly improved. We won't just walk with God but we will see his very face.

Conclusion

Our God is a restoration specialist. Not only has he defeated sin through Jesus but he will one day not just defeat death, the consequence of sin on our bodies, but God will resurrect and vastly improve our bodies. For our final home, God will completely purify this creation with fire, then he will resurrect this creation and vastly improve it. Eternity will be on an earth like this earth but so much better.

God will not just walk with man like he did in Genesis but things will be vastly improved as God lives with man. Heaven and earth will be combined.

God will not just restore Eden but things will be vastly improved. We will live in the new Jerusalem, which is everything Eden was but so much more.

In addition, while Adam and Eve know God, things will be so vastly improved for us, in the new heavens and earth when we will see the face of God, which is the most delightful thing anyone can do, as seeing the face of God is gazing into the fountainhead of all pleasure.

Don't we have a great God?. Through Jesus Christ, he has given us so much more than we could conceive. He didn't save our souls but he saves our bodies and this creation. He doesn't just restore. To emphasize the greatness of his defeat of sin, he vastly improves everything.

The only proper response for us to to worship and adore Jesus who has given us all this. Let's close in worship as we thank God for the great finish that is ours through Jesus in eternity.



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