

Overall Class Objective: To intensify our pursuit of a God-centered, Gospel-based life through a deeper understanding of the character and work of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Class Overview

1. Discuss the danger of understating the Gospel in view of the new heavens and new earth.
2. Understand how the new heaven and new earth complete the story of the Bible.
3. **Explain God's ultimate goal in bringing about the new heavens and new earth.**
4. **Examine the scope of sin's effects as reflected in God's intent to renew all things.**
5. **Discover the way in which the Gospel is exalted by the promise of the new heaven and new earth.**
6. Delineate what the resurrection of Jesus reveals about the new heavens and new earth.
7. Determine the relationship between the present heavens and earth and the new heavens and earth.
8. Consider the nature of our existence in the new heavens and earth.

Notes

3) Explain God's ultimate goal in bringing about the new heavens and new earth.

a) **Creation** reflects God's plan to dwell with people.

i) So God created man in his own image,

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

ii) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Genesis 3:8

b) The **Tabernacle/Temple** is intended to be a means for God to dwell with his people.

i) And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exodus 25:8

ii) I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God. Exodus 29:45, 46

c) The coming of **Jesus** is a manifestation of God's intention to dwell with his people.

i) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

d) The coming of the **Holy Spirit** is continued evidence of God's resolve to dwell with his people.

i) For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 2 Corinthians 6:16

e) The **new heavens and new earth** is the culmination of God's plan to dwell with his people.



- i) 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. Rev. 21:1-3
- f) The formation of a people with whom God would dwell has always been at the center of redemptive history.
 - i) 13 After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. Acts 15:13, 14
 - ii) 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14
 - iii) 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Pet 2:9:10

4) Examine the scope of **sin's effects** as reflected in God's intent to renew all things.

- a) The material earth is cursed.
 - i) 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,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
 in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field. Genesis 3:17, 18
 - ii) For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 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. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Romans 8:19-24a
- b) Human physiology and psychology are cursed.
 - i) To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you.” Genesis 3:16

ii) And to Adam he said,

“... cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life. . . . Genesis 3:17

iii) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:23

iv) The heart is deceitful above all things,

and desperately sick;

who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:6

v) 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.” Rev. 21:4

5) Discover the way in which the Gospel is exalted by the promise of the new heaven and new earth.

a) The Gospel has always been God’s intended means to bring about the renewal of all things.

i) ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before **all things**, and in him **all things** hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:15-20

ii) ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:7-10

b) The saving work of Jesus is at the center of our identification, anticipation and transformation.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20, 21