

## Taking The Long View

*"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." - Hebrews 11:16*

What does it mean to think beyond the current situation? Is there an eternal perspective that can keep the tyranny of the urgent from overtaking the mind? The saints of old learned how to take the long view. They understood the distinction between temporal and eternal.



This world is not our lasting home—we're just passing through. Reminding ourselves of this reality fuels our desire for a better country, a heavenly city prepared for us. Consider what indescribable pleasures the believer will see immediately upon entering into heaven.

First, our eyes will rest upon the glory of the city itself with its palaces and mansions. There is no splendor and majesty comparable to the beauty and glory of the heavenly city. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you," (John 14:2).

Second, we will gaze with delight upon the flowers, the trees, the gardens, the waterfalls, the mountains, the meadows and all the other beautiful colors and shapes which will fill our sight in heaven.

Third, it will be an unspeakable pleasure to behold all the other saints arrayed in beauty, glory, splendor, grace and majesty far surpassing anything in this world.

Fourth, our minds will be filled with the incomparable beauty of the angels, for it is believed that these celestial spirits will assume bodies of great loveliness in order to render themselves visible to the blessed.

Fifth, and most important, our eyes will rest with incomparable delight upon the inexpressible beauty and loveliness of the LORD Jesus whose glorified body is irresistibly attractive, beautiful and majestic. We shall see Jesus face to face! This is inexpressible, incomprehensible delight and fullness of joy!

Recently, two beloved saints were called home to their eternal rest. The thought came into my mind with great clarity and meaning: they are even now enjoying the beauty, wonder and splendor of heaven!

Since the love of the beautiful is so deeply rooted in our nature, why do we not more earnestly yearn for the beauty of heaven? Let us intently fix our eyes upon the glorious city which awaits us. The distractions of the present moment are nothing to be compared to the lasting pleasures and unspeakable joys that await us!