

NO NIGHT THERE

REVELATION 21:9-27//TODD DUGARD
APRIL 30, 2023



The glory of God chases away the night...inviting me into an eternal union with Christ (21:9-10)...made radiant and precious before all (21:11)...bound with the one people of God (21:12-14)...dwelling together in the perfected creation (21:15-21)...and enjoying unhindered relationship with God forever (21:22-27)

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

1) This first question was asked by Pastor Todd in his message. Do we settle too easily? Resigning ourselves to what we have right in front of us rather than living for better, eternal things? In the words of C.S. Lewis, are we too busy “making mud pies in the slum” to appreciate “the offer of a holiday at the sea”?

2) In his discussion of verse 11, Todd said that “...when we are given our perfected bodies, we will be glorified and we will be able to stand before God...”. Do you find that hard to believe or imagine? Describe what you think this experience might be like? Does this passage make you marvel more at God’s grace and mercy? In what way?

Todd spoke about the negative impact of social media; that it crushing our view of self. In what ways have you seen this play out in your life and in the lives of people around you? What are some practical ways that we can combat that negative influence in our lives? And the lives of our kids?

3) In v,12-14, John gives us a picture of the one people of God bound together in the New Jerusalem. How do you understand the unity of God’s people from both the Old and New Testament? How are we connected to those people who went before us, living in very different circumstances? How does it make you feel, to know that you are part of something so much bigger than yourself?

4) Barnabas Piper in his book "Belong" says that we experience true belonging when "(w)e encounter the healing of Jesus Christ as he cleanses us from the filth and infection of sin and we encounter joyful unity with other Christians who have also entered the light." Has this been your experience of Christian community? As a group, come up with some practical suggestions for how we can make this a reality for more people in the church today?

5) In v. 15-21 we read an awesome and symbolic description of the New Jerusalem that is hard for us to fathom. As you read and reflect, what do you think John is trying to convey here? Why?

6) In the final verse of this chapter (v. 22-27), John states that the city will be lit by the "glory of God" and that "the nations will walk by its light". There will be no temple because we will be living in the presence of God and the city gates will never be shut because there will be no threat of evil and nothing unclean will ever enter it. "There will be no night there." As a Christian, living in a dark world that is full of evil, how can this picture of eternity help you today? How can this picture of Heaven bring perspective to our current situation?