

# HE WILL DWELL WITH THEM

REVELATION 21:1-8//TODD DUGARD

APRIL 23, 2023



*Whether I realize it or not, the deepest longing of my heart is to be with God, exchanging...the old for the new (21:1)...estrangement for intimacy (21:2-3)...brokenness for wholeness (21:4)...despair for hope (21:5)...want for satisfaction (21:6)...confusion for identity (21:7)...sin and death for life (21:8)*

## GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**1) As Christians, waiting for Christ's return, we often grow tired of this sinful world.** What manifestation of that sinfulness (i.e., a habitual sin, corruption, oppression, worldliness etc.) do you grow most tired of? How do you cope when you feel overwhelmed with those feelings of weariness?

**2) In his sermon, Todd highlighted that one of the deep longings of the human heart is to exchange estrangement from God for intimacy with him.** How do you deal with those moments when you feel especially estranged from God? What about being intimate with God (in his immediate presence) do you look forward to the most?

**3) As Christians, we know that Jesus is the only one who can truly satisfy us! However, we often end up looking to other things to bring us that satisfaction.** As a group, discuss what things (good or bad) that you are tempted to seek satisfaction in? What is the ultimate outcome when you strive to find satisfaction from anything other than Christ? How has Christ met all of our needs?

**4) As you read Revelation 21:4-5, 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

How do these verses speak to a broken and desperate world that is yearning for wholeness? What kind of hope does this bring to you daily?

4) Todd referenced this quote from Dane Ortlund's book *Gentle and Lowly* (citing Jürgen Moltmann):

**Jesus Christ's earthly ministry was one of giving back to undeserving sinners their humanity. We tend to think of the miracles of the Gospels as interruptions in the natural order. Yet ...miracles are not an interruption of the natural order but the restoration of the natural order. We are so used to a fallen world that sickness, disease, pain, and death seem natural. In fact, they are the interruption.**

Have you ever considered the 'natural order' this way before? How might re-framing reality in this way impact the way you understand the world around you? How can we ensure that we live in this reality? How essential is it that we convey this to the sinful and dying world around us?

5) **Considering all the ways in which people seek to identify themselves in our world (i.e., race, sexuality, ability, age etc.), the Gospel offers clarity; either you are you a child of God or you are not.** How do we as Christians balance our identity as God's children with other factors that might define us? How do we approach this conversation with the culture at large?

6) **Pray for each other; that our lives would reflect the exchange we have made: sin and death for life in Christ.**