

# Homesick for Heaven

## Life at the Boiling Point: Heaven and Suffering

Philippians 1:19-24  
Pastor Jeff Burkholder  
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**We will long for heaven as we...**

**A. Come to experience the realities of living in this fallen world.**

1. Reality of pain and suffering. (II Corinthians 11:23-28)
2. Reality of strained and broken relationships.  
(II Timothy 4:11; Acts 15:36-39)
3. Reality of the sin nature. (Romans 7:15-24)
4. Reality of our physical bodies. (II Corinthians 4:16-18)

“When life gets tough, when you’re overwhelmed with doubt, or when you wonder if living for Christ is worth the effort, remember that you are not home yet. At death you won’t leave home—you’ll go home.”

*The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, Copyright © 2002, p. 51

**B. Come to understand God’s plan for redemption.  
(Romans 8:2, 19, 20; Revelation 21:5; Acts 3:21)**

“In the Cross and the Resurrection, God made a way not only to restore his original design for mankind but also to expand it. In our resurrection bodies, we will again dwell on Earth – a New Earth – completely free of the Curse. Unencumbered by sin, human activity will lead naturally to a prosperous and magnificent culture.”

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“Jesus came not only to rescue people from ultimate destruction. He came also to rescue the entire universe from ultimate destruction. He will transform our dying Earth into a vital New Earth, fresh and uncontaminated, no longer subject to death and destruction.

The Curse is real, but it is *temporary*. Jesus is the cure of the Curse. He came to set derailed human history back on its tracks. Earth won’t be put out of its misery; it will be infused with a greater life than it has ever known, at last becoming all that God meant for it to be...”

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**C. Come to understand what is meant by a new heaven and a new earth. (Isaiah 64:17-25; Ephesians 1:10; Revelation 21:1-4)**

“The hymn ‘This Is My Father’s World’ expresses this truth in its final words: ‘Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.’ Just as God and mankind are reconciled in Christ, so too the dwellings of God and mankind – Heaven and Earth – will be reconciled in Christ. As God and man will be forever united in Jesus, so Heaven and Earth will forever be united in the new physical universe where we will live as resurrected beings. To affirm anything less is to understate the redemptive work of Christ.”

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“As Ephesians 1:10 demonstrates, this idea of Earth and Heaven becoming one is explicitly biblical. Christ will make Earth into Heaven and Heaven into Earth. Just as the wall that separates God and mankind is torn down in Jesus, so too the wall that separates Heaven and Earth will be forever demolished. There will be one universe, with all things in Heaven and on Earth together under one head, Jesus Christ. ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them’ (Revelation 21:3). God will live with us on the New Earth. That will ‘bring all things in heaven and on earth together.’

God’s plan is that there will be no more gulf between the spiritual and physical worlds. There will be no divided loyalties or divided realms. There will be one cosmos, one universe united under one Lord – forever. This is the unstoppable plan of God. This is where history is headed.”

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