

The Individual Conflict: Victory Over Sin

GYC 2013 | Kameron DeVasher

Session 3: Repopulating Heaven

The Rest of the Mission

- Luke 19:10
- Jesus' mission involved more than revealing the contrast between character of God and the character of Satan. God's plan involved the saving of sinners, not just the destruction of Satan.

PROBLEM #1: THE PAST

All Have Sinned

- Isaiah 59: 2; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 6:23

The Great Exchange

- Zechariah 3:3, 4
 - Satan's basic argument: "They've all sinned and your law says the wages of sin is death!"
 - God couldn't ignore our sin. Sin had to be dealt with just as God's law required... with death.
 - While sin separates people from their God, God's plan separates people from their sin.
- Isaiah 53:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21; 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18

PROBLEM #2: THE FUTURE

Repopulating Heaven

- Ephesians 1:7-10; Colossians 1:19-23
- John 14:1-3
 - *God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God's purpose to repopulate heaven with the human family. —SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 1082*
 - *The vacancies made in heaven by the fall of Satan and his angels will be filled by the redeemed of the Lord. —Review & Herald, May 29, 1900*
 - From our perspective this promise is good news, but from the angels' perspective, um...?
 - Why were those mansions vacated in the first place? Sin!
 - Christ's work involves both His preparing Heaven for us and His preparing us for Heaven.
- Nahum 1:9
 - *The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: "Affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9. The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom. - The Great Controversy, p. 504*

Before Men and Angels

- Deuteronomy 4:5-8
 - *Even these words fail of reaching the greatness and the glory of God's purpose to be accomplished through his people. Not to this world only, but to the universe, are we to make manifest the principles of His kingdom. - Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 13*
- Ephesians 3:8-12; 1 Corinthians 4:9

- Hebrews 11:13-16

- *The power of a higher, purer, nobler life is our great need. The world is watching to see what fruit is borne by professed Christians. It has a right to look for self-denial and self-sacrifice from those who believe advanced truth. It is watching, ready to criticize with keenness and severity our words and acts. Everyone who acts a part in the work of God is weighed in the scales of human discernment. Impressions favorable or unfavorable to Bible religion are constantly being made on the minds of all with whom we have to do.*
- *And God and the angels are watching. God desires His people to show by their lives the advantage of Christianity over worldliness, to show that they are working on a high, holy plane. He longs to see them showing that the truth they have received has made them children of the heavenly King. He longs to make them channels through which He can pour His boundless love and mercy.*
- *Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of the Saviour shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim His own. It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten, the coming of our Lord. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel! Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come. - Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 324*

The Time of the Harvest

- Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43; Mark 4:26-30; Revelation 14:14-19
- *In the midst of a world by its iniquity doomed to destruction, Enoch lived a life of such close communion with God that he was not permitted to fall under the power of death. The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be "redeemed from the earth" (Revelation 14:3) - Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 88*

New Bodies, Not New Characters

A body can be given, but a character must be grown.

- 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Philippians 3:18-21; Romans 8:18-23
- *When Christ shall come, our vile bodies are to be changed, and made like His glorious body; but the vile character will not be made holy then. The transformation of character must take place before His coming. Our natures must be pure and holy; we must have the mind of Christ, that He may behold with pleasure His image reflected upon our souls. - Our High Calling, p. 278*
- *If we would see heaven, we must have heaven below. We must have a heaven to go to heaven in. Signs of the Times, July 31, 1893*

Merely Getting In VS. Truly Fitting In

Salvation is more than a mere transaction where God calls you good on paper; it is an entire transformation that actually makes you good in person.

- 1 John 3:2, 3; 1 Corinthians 3:18
- *The proving time has come, and angels are watching the development of character. How many, since they have professed Christ, have changed for the better? My brother, my sister, are you becoming more and more like Jesus, who is pure, holy, undefiled? Can your associates see in you the likeness of Christ? Can they see that you maintain in your dress, in your conversation, your daily life, the simplicity of your Master? - Review and Herald, December 29, 1896*