

# Glimpses of Glory

## Class #6

*... in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalm 16.11

*I don't believe in an afterlife, so I don't have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more.*

*For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the boredom of heaven would be even worse.*

Isaac Asimov

### I. A Question to Answer

***"Will we work on the New Earth?"***

***Will work be part of the "fullness of joy" & the "pleasures forevermore" in heaven?"***

#### A. God is, by nature, a worker.

*... on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done,  
and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.*

Genesis 2.2

*Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."*

John 5.17

#### B. As those made in His image, God created us to work as well. Work is part of our mandate (purpose) & not a consequence of the curse.

*God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Genesis 1.28

*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it & keep it.*

Genesis 2.15

*The book of Genesis leaves us with a striking truth – work was part of Paradise.*

Timothy Keller, Every Good Endeavor

#### C. Glimpses of the new earth include work.

*"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*

*<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. <sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress ... <sup>21</sup> They shall **build houses** and inhabit them; they shall **plant vineyards** and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup> **They shall not labor in vain** or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.*

Isaiah 65. 17-24

### D. Jesus told parables about responsibilities & joyful labor in His coming kingdom.

Jesus proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. <sup>12</sup> He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. <sup>13</sup> Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' <sup>14</sup> But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' <sup>15</sup> When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. <sup>16</sup> The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' <sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' <sup>20</sup> Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief, <sup>21</sup> for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' <sup>22</sup> He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup> Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' <sup>24</sup> And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him & give it to the one who has the ten minas.' <sup>25</sup> And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' <sup>26</sup> 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>27</sup> But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here & slaughter them before me.'" Luke 19. 11-27

### E. Any work is heaven will be restful labor!

*... there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.*

Hebrews 4. 9-10

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 2.10

*I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"*

Revelation 14.13

## II. A Passage to Consider

*Recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For,*

*"Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."*

*But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.*

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy ...

**Hebrews 10. 32-39; 11. 13-16, 32-38**