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Sermon Notes

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## Heavenly Mindset

### Colossians 3:1-4

American Jurist **Oliver Wendell Holmes**: Some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good.

However, C.S. Lewis said, “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth, and you will get neither.” (*The Joyful Christian*, p.138).

Richard Robarts, minister of God, early 19<sup>th</sup> century... died of consumption at age 36

*[He writes in his journal]* “Frequently, all around me thought me about to expire. My cough was so dreadful, so were the pains I felt in my chest and side; and above all the languor which oppressed me for a while seemed almost overwhelming. But while I was thus sinking I felt more of the consolations and supports of religion than I ever had experienced before. O, with what strong and assured confidence was I enabled to look upon my Redeemer, and how gladly would I have resigned my soul into his hands! What glorious manifestations of His love and mercy did He make to my soul, and how did I rejoice to believe that in a few days more I should be with Him in glory eternal! For the sake of my dear wife and friends, I was willing to live, and saw it my duty to use all proper means to promote my recovery... but for my own sake I had a desire to be with Christ. Thus I lay in sweet suspense, as it were, between earth and heaven, and indeed, so I have remained in general ever since.”

*Later on, a friend said to him:* “I should be glad to enjoy your happiness.” *Richard Robarts could not speak at this stage of his illness, but he wrote this on a slate:* “Believe constantly on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you may be much happier than you are. Had I been more faithful in this respect I should have enjoyed more consolation and done more for the glory of God.”

*[the account continues]* “In the course of this day he experienced an ecstasy of heavenly joy. His eyes were bathed in tears, and he uttered words of praise, consolation and triumph; it appeared as if he was transported into Paradise. It was evident that he experienced a

foretaste of heaven.” He said, “Oh, I am happy in my God, in his love. I am going to possess Him forever. I shall enter into that city whose streets are of fine gold, yes, the New Jerusalem from above, the City of the Living God.”

"All men seek happiness," says Blaise Pascal. "This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object.

Problem: most people don't know how to find it... our text today gives the best answer you will ever find: **HEAVENLY-MINDEDNESS**

If you could walk the streets of the New Jerusalem this afternoon for one hour, then returned to earth, would not earthly concerns seem ridiculous? Would you care who won the National Championship? Or who got the promotion at your company? Or who got the credit for something done at church?

Is it possible to live mentally in heaven while walking vigorously on earth? Is that happiness possible??? The Apostle Paul, in these seventeen crucial verses, gives the most comprehensive counsel you will find in all of Scripture to having a happy and fruitful life here on earth

And he begins with this: a Heavenly Mindset

## I. Elements of a Happy, Fruitful Christian Life

### A. Heavenly Mindset (vs. 1-4)

- Seeking things above, thinking about things above
- Understanding our past: dead with Christ, raised with Christ
- Understanding our present: Christ is our life, and He is in heaven
- Understanding our future: Christ will appear, and we will appear with Him in glory

### B. Vigorous Warfare Against Sin (vs. 5-9)

- Put to death all earthly sins...sexual sins, idolatries, relational sins, etc.
- Understanding that because of these things the wrath of God is coming
- Breaking the hold of old habits

### C. Walking Together in the “New Self” (vs. 9-14)

- Understanding the “old self” and “new self” in Christ
- Understanding also the new community we make... old distinctions mean nothing: Greek, Jew, barbarian, Scythian, slave free
- Walking together in love: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience; learning how to forgive each other completely from the heart

### D. Hearts Saturated with Christ (vs. 15-17)

- The Peace of Christ Ruling Our Hearts
- The Word of Christ Richly Dwelling in Our Hearts
- The Name of Christ Motivating Our Hearts
- Thanks to Christ Constantly Given by Our Hearts

Brothers and sisters, THIS is a happy, fruitful Christian life

It is the life that Christ purchased for us with His blood

It is a life that is possible in the Spirit

It is a life I yearn for here at FBC

## II. Heavenly Mindset (vs. 1-4)

***Colossians 3:1-4 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.***

### A. Present Duty: Seek and Think Heaven

#### 1. Two key verbs: SEEK and THINK

a. NIV has “set your hearts on” and “set your minds on”

b. What do you yearn for?... that is what you SEEK

- c. What do you think about?... that is what you SET YOUR MIND ON
- d. The happy, fruitful life begins with self-imposed MIND CONTROL

***Romans 8:5-7 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.***

- e. Paul gives us two things positively, one thing negatively:
  - i) Positively: things above and things to come
  - ii) Negatively: NOT on earthly things

2. "Things above" = Christ's present rule

***Colossians 3:1 set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.***

- a. Christ has ascended to heaven
- b. Christ sits at the right hand of Almighty God
- c. God is determined to crush all of Christ's enemies

***Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."***

- d. Christ carries on his constant priestly ministry for us at God's right hand

***Hebrews 1:3 After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.***

***Hebrews 8:1-2 We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, <sup>2</sup> and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.***

- e. Christ constantly lives to intercede for us at God's right hand

***Hebrews 7:24-25 because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.***

- f. Christ rules over all the earth, sovereignly, for the benefit of the Church

***Ephesians 1:20-22 [God] raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion,***

***and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church***

g. So, think of Christ as king of the universe, sitting at the right hand of God

3. “Things to come” = Christ’s future rule

a. Christ’s second coming, in the clouds, when at last He is revealed as the rightful king of the universe

b. And, Judgement Day, when Christ will sit on His throne and will judge all the nations

c. And (best of all) the New Heavens and the New Earth, the perfect universe that Christ will establish as our eternal home

4. “Not on earthly things”

a. The things of this earth... tied to this present, earthly system

b. Certainly not the lusts of the earth

***1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.***

c. But neither an over preoccupation with

i) Food, clothing, shelter

ii) The political events... the rise and fall of nations

iii) Earthly hobbies: sports, entertainment, travel

iv) Earthly possessions: some coveted item

d. Even GOOD things of an earthly nature should not take TOP PRIORITY... even your own families

***1 Corinthians 7:29-32 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; <sup>30</sup> those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; <sup>31</sup> those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. <sup>32</sup> I would like you to be free from concern.***

5. Our rich inheritance: the New Heaven and the New Earth

- a. Fill your mind with biblical data... what kind of existence will we have?
- b. Feed your faith and your hope on the promises of God
- c. This greatly glorifies God when we yearn for what He yearns to give us
- d. Hebrews 11 teaches this... commenting on the other-worldly focus of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

***Hebrews 11:13-16 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country-- a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.***

- e. Christ openly commanded this and appealed to it

***Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

- f. Revelation was given to help us do this

#### B. Our Past: We Died and Were Raised with Christ

***Colossians 3:3 For you died***

***Colossians 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ***

1. This is speaking of our past union with Christ, once for all eternity, through faith
2. When we heard and believed the gospel, we were united with Christ in both His death and His resurrection
3. This is our POSITION in Christ, and nothing can ever change it
4. This is the BASIS of our heavenly meditation... we are homesick for heaven because Christ is there

#### C. Our Present: Christ is Our Life, and He is in Heaven

***Colossians 3:3 your life is now hidden with Christ in God.***

***Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears***

1. Christ is our life
2. Where Christ is seated is our TRUE home
3. He is in heaven, at the right hand of God
4. So, in some sense, so are we
5. Notice the word "hidden"... the world does not know us, and in some sense we don't really even know ourselves

***1 John 3:1-2 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

D. Our Future: Christ Will Appear, and We With Him in Glory

***Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.***

1. Our future is a glorious unveiling of Christ in His Second Coming glory
2. AND our glorification in Him

***Revelation 19:11-16 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.***

***1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left***

***will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.***

***Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.***

### III. Heaven Revealed

#### A. Heaven Misunderstood

Randy Alcorn wrote a book called *Heaven* specifically to rectify the gross neglect of good teaching on heaven that plagues the church today

He relates a conversation he had with a pastor who confessed to him: “Whenever I think about Heaven, it makes me depressed. I’d rather just cease to exist when I die?”

Alcorn asked “Why?”

The pastor answered: “I can’t stand the thought of that endless tedium. To float around in the clouds with nothing to do but strum a harp...it’s all so terribly boring. Heaven doesn’t sound much better than Hell. I’d rather be annihilated than spend eternity in a place like that.”

Actually, many Christians misunderstand heaven

Many people think it will be this endless sing-along where we sing one great hymn after another, forever and ever and ever and ever and ever... strumming a harp, floating like a wisp of air on a puffy white cloud

Alcorn relates Mark Twain’s poor views of heaven, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*: “The Christian spinster Miss Watson takes a dim view of Huck’s fun-loving spirit. According to Huck, “She went on and told me all about the good place. She said all a body would have to do there was go around all day long with a harp and sing forever and ever. So I didn’t think much of it...I asked her if she reckoned Tom Sawyer would go there, and she said ‘Not by a considerable sight. I was glad about that, because I wanted him and me to be together.’”

#### 1. Too many people have a gross misunderstanding of our heavenly future

##### a. Many fine bible teachers have neglected careful teaching on heaven

- i) John Calvin never wrote a commentary on Revelation, which has the clearest views of heaven
- ii) Theologian Reinhold Neibuhr wrote an in-depth two-volume study entitled *The Nature and Destiny of Man*, and amazingly had nothing to say about heaven
- iii) William Shedd’s three-volume *Systematic Theology* has 87 pages on eternal punishment, but only two pages on heaven



iv) In his 900 page theological work, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones devoted less than two pages to the eternal state and the New Earth

v) Louis Berkhof's classic *Systematic Theology* devotes 38 pages to creation, 40 pages to baptism and communion, 15 pages to the "intermediate state" (what happens to people between death and resurrection) but only two pages to Hell and one page to Heaven

b. Key question: does the Bible really have so little to say about Heaven?  
ANSWER IS NO!!!!

#### B. A Verse Taken Out of Context

1. So many people shut down inquiry on details about heaven based on one verse:

***1 Corinthians 2:9 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"--***

2. BUT it is taken out of context and the quote stops too soon

3. Context: the limitation of human wisdom for discerning the plans of God

a. Human senses cannot perceive heaven

b. Human wisdom cannot predict heaven

4. Next verse reveals the whole concept

***1 Corinthians 2:9-10 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- <sup>10</sup> but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.***

5. Not everything has been revealed... but many things have

***Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever***

6. And we must study what God HAS revealed about heaven

#### C. What God Wants Us to Know About the New Heavens and New Earth

1. So what will it be like?

a. There will be a New Heaven and New Earth, the home of righteousness

i) The New Heaven will be God's dwelling place, more beautiful even than the present star-studded night sky

- ii) The New Earth will be radiant, luscious, remade, free forever from bondage to decay... a world more pristine than Eden, more exciting to explore than Lewis and Clark's exploration of the Pacific Northwest
  - b. We will see God and Christ face to face!!
    - i) The very thing denied to Moses on the Mountain
    - ii) The very thing it is said that no man could ever do
    - iii) We will do constantly
    - iv) And, like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we will see and talk with the risen Lord... see the nail marks in his hands, sit at table with him, see his face, hear his voice, ask him anything we want, learn from him forever
  - c. There will be a glorious city, the New Jerusalem, as a place of union between heaven and earth
    - i) It will be ravishingly beautiful... the most beautiful city in history, larger, more luminescent, more serene and powerful
    - ii) God will dwell there, and its gates will be constantly open so the wealth of the nations can stream in
  - d. We sit at table with Him in the Kingdom, at a banqueting table so lavish it cannot be described... and many will come from the east and the west and take their places at that table
  - e. We will be perfect in soul and in body... no internal struggle with sin, no bodily ailments, NO DEATH, MOURNING, CRYING or PAIN
    - i) Meditate on each one of those fully
    - ii) Take pain, for example: no physical pain... no stubbed toes, no broken bones, no cancer or chemotherapy, no danger even!
    - iii) No psychological pain: no disappointment, rejection, loneliness, regret, sadness, jealousy, discontent, boredom, etc.
- It will be a place of infinite joy and pleasure
  - We will be perfectly conformed to Christ in every way: physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, volitionally
  - It contains both a city and a country: the "New Jerusalem" and the "New Earth"

- The New Jerusalem will be immense, a place of perfect union between heaven and earth, a place under no threat but whose gates stand open constantly for the rich blessing of the nations to be brought within her walls
- The future world will be completely free of all evil (death, mourning, crying, pain, sin, temptation, Satan, devils, evil people, worldly allurements, etc.)
- It will be a place of infinite discovery, with Christ Himself being the chief object of study
- The New Earth itself will be physical, a world to be explored, developed and cared for
- It will be ravishingly beautiful
- It will be eternal
- There will be some kind of feasting there, and we will eat food as Christ did in His resurrection body
- There will be work, and positions of responsibility and authority, though no jealousy of those over us or domineering of those under us
- We will have eternal possessions on the New Earth, our inheritance
- We will have physical bodies, perfect and glorious
- We will enjoy perfect fellowship with people from every nation and language
- We will enjoy perfect fellowship with people from every era of Redemptive History
- We will be abundantly and specifically rewarded for all acts of faith-filled service to Christ and to His people, and we will never lose these rewards but will enjoy them forever

2. Clearest text: Revelation 21-22

***Revelation 21:1-7 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

*Revelation 21:10-16* And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. <sup>16</sup> The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

*Revelation 21:22-27* I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. <sup>25</sup> On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup> Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

*Revelation 22:1-6* Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. <sup>6</sup> The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

#### IV. The Benefits of Heavenly-Mindedness

##### A. Heavenly-Mindedness Gives Power to Resist Temptation

1. Paul says asceticism (harsh treatment of the body) lacks any value in restraining sensual indulgence

2. BUT setting your heart on things above has GREAT POWER in resisting temptation
3. Earthly-minded people struggle mightily with earthly lusts
4. Those who seem to live in the heavenlies are able to see each temptation in the light of eternity...
  - a. the lures of illicit sex seem repulsive to one whose heart is set on heaven
  - b. The attraction of the corner office and the bloated six-figure salary (at the cost of sixty-hour work-weeks and multiple divorces) is immeasurably diminished

#### B. Heavenly-Mindedness Gives Energy to Advance the Kingdom

American Jurist **Oliver Wendell Holmes**: Some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good.

However, C.S. Lewis said, “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth, and you will get neither.” (*The Joyful Christian*, p.138).

1. They lived moment-by-moment for their eternal happiness in heaven and for the pleasure of their Lord
2. They yearned to see Christ glorified on earth as they vividly imagine Him to be glorified in heaven
3. Their prayer lives and Bible meditations were effective sources of daily renewal for them

#### C. Heavenly-Mindedness Keeps Perspective in Trials and Suffering

1. The sufferings of cancer or of some other dread disease diminish when we consider that the worst that can happen is being in heaven with Christ
2. The sufferings of those persecuted for the faith dwindle: as one house church pastor said to a terrifying security policeman threatening him with a gun: “You can’t threaten me with heaven!!”
3. The sufferings of the body are all seen to be temporary in light of eternity

#### D. Heavenly-Mindedness Enables Us to Love Others Better

1. We shall see each other as future partners in a heavenly life
2. We shall yearn to help each other along the way to heaven, rather than involve ourselves in petty power struggles or backbiting or gossip or conflicts
3. We shall be much more willing to sacrifice our time, energy and money to benefit other people if we realize that all those things will be rewarded in heaven
4. We shall be freed from jealousy of the spiritual successes of others: if God blesses someone else's ministry more than ours, we are enabled to rejoice from the heavenly perspective

#### E. Heavenly-Mindedness Freed Us from Fear of Man

1. Human tyrants shrink into nothingness in light of the future heavenly life
2. The greatness of God, the glory of Christ, the infinite mystery and power of the Holy Spirit make human opponents seem as nothing
3. We shall lose our fear of man in evangelism and be very bold in witnessing
4. We shall lose our fear of missions work and be willing to go wherever God calls us

#### F. Heavenly-Mindedness Frees Us from Discouragement

1. Satan sells the poisonous purple kool-aid of discouragement at every street corner
2. He is especially zealous to do so to those who are most effective for the Kingdom
3. BUT a heavenly mindset frees us from discouragement: we are going to a perfect world which will be eternally lit by the Glory of Christ
4. Everything we do to serve Christ will result in eternal blessing, and it is literally impossible for us to fail
5. Where then is discouragement?? It is CRUSHED FOREVER!!

#### G. Heavenly-Mindedness Enables Us to Be Excellent Counselors

1. We can point other people to the glory that will be revealed to us and in us
2. We can lift their spirits when they are discouraged

3. We can help them defeat temptation and sin
4. We can help them be eternally fruitful... all of this by saturating their minds with HEAVEN

#### H. Heavenly-Mindedness Makes Us Generous With Earthly Resources

1. We need not hold on to money, or be stingy with our material possessions
2. We can look on every moment of our day as preparation for our future heavenly life
3. We can spread a banquet for the poor and needy, and not expect to be repaid in this life... for we expect the reward at the resurrection of the righteous
4. We need not be clingy, materialistic, stingy, selfish... heaven frees us from all that

#### I. Heavenly-Mindedness Sweetens Public and Private Worship

1. Many of the best hymns have been enriched my meditations on heaven
2. Psalms is the first and greatest source of worship songs... but Revelation is second
3. We should talk about heaven, pray about heaven, sing about heaven... in private worship, longing to get there... in public worship, weeping for its beauty

#### J. Heavenly-Mindedness Frees Us from Fear of Aging and Death

### V. Application (vs. 5-9)

- A. Be Certain That it's Heaven and Not Hell in your Future
- B. Set Your Hearts on Things Above in Daily Quiet Time
- C. Study the New Heaven and New Earth Biblically
- D. Learn to Conquer Sin by Heavenly-Mindedness
- E. Enrich Your Conversation with References to Heaven