



# SUN GROVE CHURCH

## The Kingdom - Part 3

*"...a unifying testimony of the human heart throughout history is belief in life after death...every culture has a God-given, innate sense of the eternal—that this world is not all there is."*

-Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*

- Romans 8:21

### The Misconceptions About Eternity

- One of the challenges in talking about the afterlife is often many ideas come more from medieval history and popular culture than from Scripture.

### The Mystery of Eternity

- There are parts of the eternal that will remain a mystery until we get there.
- The Book of Revelation is a vision that brought hope and challenge to the 1st Century churches, and to every generation of Christ followers after.

### Eternity Away from God

- Revelation 20:14
- We need to come to grips with the truth that Jesus, who has shown God's love in ways no one else ever has or could, talks about Hell as a reality.
- Matthew 5:22
- The word for "Hell" that Jesus uses is Gehenna.
- Jesus uses this word 11 times.
  - It was a place of child sacrifices.
  - Mounds of human bodies were piled in Gehenna (Jer. 7:32).
  - Gehenna was the name of the garbage dump in Jerusalem.
  - (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30)
  - (Matt. 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28)



# SUN GROVE CHURCH

- 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- A common misconception about Hell is that God sends people there. This misguided belief ignores the nature of evil and human responsibility.
- John 3:17

"Hell is the greatest monument to human freedom. Those who follow Jesus say to God, 'Thy will be done.' And to those who insist on living a life without God's grace in Jesus, in the end, to them God says, 'Thy will be done.'" -CS Lewis

- It's not God's desire that any person experiences Final Judgement away from Him.
- Matthew 25:41

"God is utterly committed to set the world right in the end...And that "setting right" must involve the elimination of all that distorts God's good and lovely creation and in particular, of all that defaces his image-bearing human creatures." -N.T. Wright

## A New Heaven and A New Earth

- How does this epic story end for Christ-followers?
- Revelation 21:1-5

## A New Creation

- This new creation will be filled with beauty, joy and connection.
- This is the widest and fullest restoration.

## Perfect Relational Connection

- Heaven is not just about my individual connection with God; it's also about being part of His Kingdom Community.
- Revelation 7:9

## God's Kingdom Fully Restored

- God's gentleness, compassion, empathy, and love are on full display here. He is depicted as personally wiping the tears from our worn and tired eyes.