

FBC POWELL, 5-11-08 AM NOTES
"THE JOURNEY TAKES US HOME"
HEBREWS 11:13-16
(#13 in Series, "The Journey")

Ephesians 1:4a (NKJV) "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world..."

Heaven is not just our destination; it is our motivation.

Colossians 3:2 (NKJV) "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

I. Our Focus on the Journey (vv. 13-15)

A. We Long in Faith (v. 13a)

Hebrews 11:10 (NKJV) "For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God."

"The saints in all this glorious war,
Shall conquer, though they die;
They view the triumph from afar,
And seize it with their eye."

—Isaac Watts

B. We Live as Strangers and Pilgrims (vv. 13b-14)

Hebrews 11:15 (AMP) "If they had been thinking with [homesick] remembrance of that country from which they were emigrants, they would have found constant opportunity to return to it."

II. God's Feeling Toward Us (v. 16a)

"What a city it is! No pollution, no graffiti, no trash, no peeling paint or rotting garages, no dead grass or broken bottles, no harsh street talk, no in-your-face confrontations, no domestic strife or violence, no dangers in the night, no arson or lying or stealing or killing, no vandalism, and no ugliness. The city of God will be perfect because God will be in it. He will walk in it and talk in it and manifest Himself in every part of it. All that is good and beautiful and holy and peaceful and true and happy will be there because God will be there. Perfect justice will be there, and recompense a thousand-fold for every pain suffered in obedience to Christ. And it will never deteriorate. In fact, it will shine brighter and brighter into unending ages of increasing joy."

—John Piper

III. God's Furnishings for Us (v. 16b)

A. A Resurrection Body

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, **the resurrection body**, and the life everlasting."

—The Apostle's Creed

Luke 24:39 (NKJV) "Behold My hands and My feet, that **it is I Myself**. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

"All the dead shall be raised up with the self-same bodies, and none other."

—The Westminster Confession

Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV) “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

1 John 3:2b (NKJV) “It has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.”

1 Corinthians 15:49 (NKJV) “And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NKJV) “So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”

B. Exceeding Riches of His Grace

Ephesians 2:7 (NKJV) “That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

1. A Gracious Place (Revelation 21-22)

2. Gracious Progress

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB) “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then **I will know fully** just as I also have been fully known.”

“It will take an infinite number of ages for God to be done glorifying the wealth of His grace to us—which is to say He will never be done. And our joy will increase forever and ever. Boredom is absolutely excluded in the presence of an infinitely glorious God.”

—John Piper

3. Gracious Service

Revelation 22:3 (NKJV) “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and **His servants shall serve Him**.”

4. Unhindered Worship

Revelation 4:9-11 (NKJV) “Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.’”