

GOSPEL MONOPOLY

4. BEYOND BOARDWALK

HVC, Jan. 19, 2020

Acts 3:21, 2 Pet. 3:13, Matt. 25:34, Rev. 21:1-8

Where is one of the most beautiful places you've ever visited? What impressed you? (*Serendipity*)

How would you have answered the four Big Questions before you came to faith? (OR: How would someone who does not believe answer them?)

1. *Who/what is my god? What's at the center of my life? What informs my identify and purpose?*
2. *How do I make sense of the brokenness in me and around me?*
3. *What's the solution to the brokenness?*
4. *What will finally satisfy and solve my biggest problems? What do I long for? ... HOPE for?*

Would you rather be frozen at death or have your DNA preserved?

When you were growing up, how did you envision "heaven"? In what way was it appealing? NOT appealing?

Matthew 19:27 (NLT)

Then Peter said to him, "We've given up everything to follow you. What will we get?"

Does this thought ever bother YOU?!!

What kinds of things do you feel you have given up in order to follow Christ?

Matthew 19:28-29 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life."

What would "a hundred times as much in return" look like for you in terms of what you have given up for Christ?

Revelation 21:1-2 (NLT)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

What would you most enjoy doing in a new earth?

What is your favorite part of weddings?

What city do you like the most? Least?

How do you feel about the New Jerusalem being your “home town”?

What “job” do you most look forward to in the new world?

Revelation 21:3 (NLT)

*I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, **God’s home** is now **among his people!** He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will **wipe every tear** from their eyes, and there will be **no more death or sorrow or crying or pain**. All these things are gone forever.”*

What do you most look forward to when you think of being in God’s immediate presence? What “scares” you about that?!

What do you think a life like this would be like? What makes it hard to envision?

What has caused you mourning, crying or pain in the last year? In what way does knowing this verse encourage you or sustain you? (*Serendipity*)

Revelation 21:5 (NLT)

*And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am **making everything new!**” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for **what I tell you is trustworthy and true.**”*

What difference would make in your life if you thoughtfully considered this every day?

Can you think of other “fantastic” things that you believe are true, even though you’ve never seen them and/or cannot understand them?

e.g., black holes ... size of universe ... neutrinos

Revelation 21:8 (NLT)

*“**But** cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who **practice** witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars — their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the **second death.**”*

What is the significance of the fact that this verse envisions people who “practice” these things?

Which of these sins bothers you the most? (OR: Which of these sins do you think is the worst?) Why?

What do you think “second death” means?

What troubles you most about the idea of “judgment”? What is encouraging about it?

How comfortable are you leaving things you don’t understand in God’s hands???

Did it make sense to you to think of people experiencing God/light/love in very different ways, depending on the kind of people they have become?

Matthew 25:34 (NLT)

***“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for YOU from the creation of the world.*”**

How do you think the “King” (God) feels in this verse?

Justin Buzzard - *“In The Last Battle, the last book in The Chronicles of Narnia series by C. S. Lewis, the unicorn named Jewel finally reaches heaven and exclaims, ‘**I’ve come home at last! This is my real country. ... This is the land I’ve been looking for all my life.**’ That’s what it means to know God, to meet Him on the other side of death. It is to come home. To arrive at a place where everything is put back together, made new, at peace and whole.”*

What do you most appreciate about “home”?

What would make the New World “home” for you?

How would your “area of influence” (where you work and spend your time during the week) look different if it was demonstrating/illustrating what things will be like in the New World?