

Quality vs Quantity

Foundations

Revelation 22:1-7

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. And he said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.' 'See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.'

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

"I believe in the life everlasting" refers not only to life eternal, but life here on earth as well. Paul's vision of heaven extending down to earth emphasizes the quality of our life with God and with each other. Ben Myers describes eternal life this way: *Eternal life is about quality not quantity. It is a quality of life that believers experience whenever they attach themselves to Jesus. When we confess we believe in eternal life, we're not talking about the duration of life but about a relationship. In the person of Jesus, we find ourselves drawn into a quality of life that is so rich it can only be described as eternal.*

How does this concept change how you may have understood this line of the Apostles' Creed in the past? How have you viewed quality vs quantity during times when you have felt closer to Jesus or other people?

We know what it feels like when time stands still due to loneliness or fractured relationships, and when time flies when spending time with a good friend. We can be certain of the promise of eternal life, but our job now is to be part of building the kingdom here on earth. **If the kingdom represents attributes such as equality, love, service, how do you see your role in helping build God's kingdom on earth now? If eternity is built around the quality of our connection with God, how are you doing in your spiritual life?**

It is easy to go through our weeks settling for the same activities and patterns. As with any relationship worth building, we must continue to find new ways to connect with God and each other. **From whom can you learn new ways to draw you closer to God? With whom do you need to connect more deeply this week?**

Heavenly Father, may we not wait for the world to come, but may it start today. Help us connect in ways that bring us life and connect us to your kingdom this week, remembering what life is truly about. Amen.