

End of the Story

- Wrapping up our series and it's been a long journey
- Biblical timeline
- Last Week=The Resurrection is the assurance that God is GREATER than anything we may face, even death itself.

Tension: So it has been a long journey, and we are jumping to the End end (will be coming back to the time after the ascension starting next week); but the End of the STory clear - back to Creation, this time, it's 'a new creation'; there's a garden, and a tree (not a fake one, Brent), and a River of Life, and there are 2 options at the end: eternal blessing vs. eternal separation / damnation. The end result is based on whether or not we have placed our trust/faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ

Revelation 21:1-2

- Big "C" Church
 - All on the same team
- Bride of Christ
 - Church
 - I cringe now when I hear people say "I love Jesus but I hate the church", that's Jesus' wife, how do you think that makes him fee? How would you feel
 - I get it the church is not perfect and has hurt people and made many mistakes
- City
 - Physical and metaphorical
 - Beautiful, the way it was created and meant to be, when I pray for healing

Revelation 21: 3-4

- Intimacy
 - Physically wiping away tears= God himself
 - A picture of great intimacy and trust
 - Leap of faith - what a relationship with Jesus is
 - In the beginning, we walked side-by-side with God
 - Chasm opened up by sin
 - Cross became a bridge
 - Now Only takes a leap, a step, to bridge the gap - to leap/step, even though we don't have all the answers is the biggest step we'll ever take
 - More take that step and trust within relationship, more back to place of just walking hand-in-hand, side-by-side with the Lord
 - "God's desire from the beginning"

Revelation 21:5

- New
 - New creation
 - V. 1
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17**
 - The text is 2 Corinthians 5:17, usually improperly translated, I would argue, as "he is a new creature." There is no verb actually in the Greek, So the better translation is "If anyone is in Christ - (shazam) new creation." This emphasizes the cosmic nature of the salvation into which we enter in Christ. God's new creation is manifest in each life that is centered in Christ, and this changes everything around it

- Made new- not in the sense that the old is fixed, completely new, a different thing, not the same, INSTANTANEOUSLY
- New wine skin
 - Jesus in Matthew 9
 - Old won't fit in new, it will burst
 - This world can't contain heaven, natural phenomenon like I talked about last week

Revelation 21:6 - "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

- ALPHA & OMEGA; there is no end to God, or future with God; Beginning and end
 - The whole series
 - Jesus' presence
- To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.: Living water; Samaritan woman

Revelation 21:7 - Those who are victorious (conquerors) will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

- Summation of the unbelievable, awesome reality we will experience as believers
 - New Heaven and Earth; water of Life flowing in each of Us
 - God, LITERALLY with us; back to the beginning - God with His kids, us with our God
 - God wiping our tears, and hit me this morning, those tears are most likely tears of joy, because there will be no more death^[b] or mourning or crying or pain

Revelation 21:8

- Hell
 - Contrary to popular belief it is not trying to string and crank a weed eater!!
 - Physical place and location
 - Always going to give it to you straight
 - Not a hell and damnation kind of evangelist, but going to tell you the truth
 - Romans 6:23 tells us that the "Wages of sin is death"=
 - second death, eternal separation from God
 - Opposite of v. 1-7
- Reality of 2 places, (A.) Heaven and (B.) hell
 - No 3rd option; Have a choice
- Good news
 - 2nd part of Romans 6:23 "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"
 - "Jesus defeated death and so can you!"

Response

- Jesus makes everything new; He wants to make you new; takes but a step of faith
 - these words are trustworthy and true
- Call to salvation
 - Only decision that matters.eternity