

Reflection Questions: Revelation 22:4

For the message, "They Shall See God" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 4, 2021

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Revelation 22:1-5

1 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 **2** through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. **4 They will see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Let's Get Started:

Can you think of a time when you were stunned by beauty? What was it? What was your experience like?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- When you think of the life to come, how central has the fact that we'll get to see God face to face ("to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord" - Psalm 27) been in your thinking? How would you like for it to become more central? What would that mean for you?
- Theologians call this sight of God in all his glory the "beatific vision." Literally, it means the "happy-making sight." Some synonyms of beatific include: delightful, blissful, joyful, euphoric, and rapturous. As you anticipate seeing "him as he is" (1 John 3:1-3) "face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12), what stirs within you? What emotions do you feel? What emotions should you feel?
- The English poet John Donne once wrote, "No man ever saw God and lived; and yet, I shall not live till I see God; and when I have seen him, I shall never die." What resonates with you about this quote / thought?
- The Apostle Peter said, "Christ also suffered for sins, the Righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus literally suffered, died, and rose again to be able to usher you one day into the presence of God to eternally experience imperishable bliss. How does what Christ secured for us stir your soul to adore him? How should it?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- The Psalmist prays to God, “In your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures evermore” (Psalm 16:11). How can reminding each other of this truth help us to encourage one another during the difficulties and trials of life in this broken world? (Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).
- If Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God (Hebrews 1:3), and if God has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6), how can we encourage one another to make our lives one unflinching gaze upon the glory of Christ? How do you need encouragement in this?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What does the hope of seeing God face to face—the place where all the beauty comes from—mean for us as we live out our faith in the city?
- What kind of me does God want for his mission in this world?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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