




**GOD
WILL
MAKE
ALL
THINGS
NEW.**

Revelation 21:4-5a

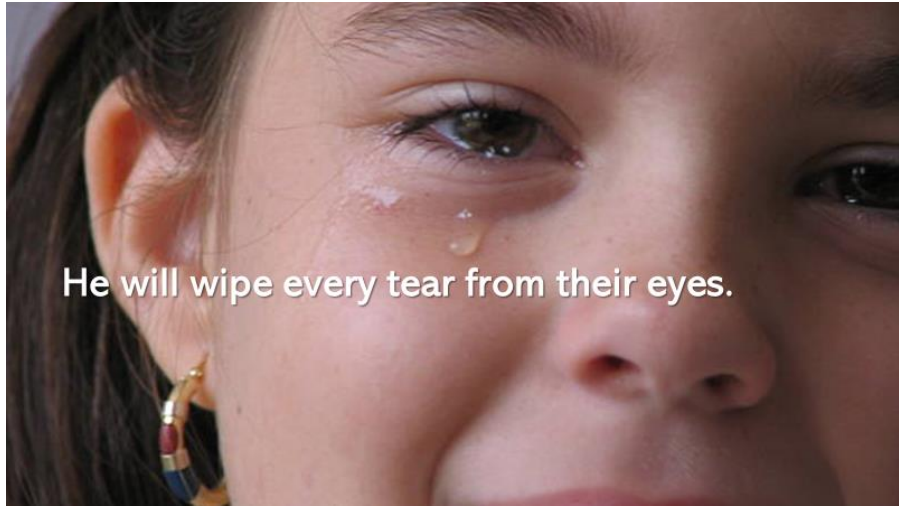
Sooke Baptist Church
Sunday, March 27, 2022,
10am, in-person
also on Facebook Live Stream
and YouTube

Coffee/Question:
What was your last
DIY project and how
did it turn out?



03:00

Read Revelation 21:3-5a



He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

When someone is crying... taking their hand, or placing a hand on their shoulder, even giving them a hug... communicates concern and care.

While a relationship is important when doing so... one doesn't have to be extremely close to a person in order to provide comfort to them.

But wiping away tears from a person's face?

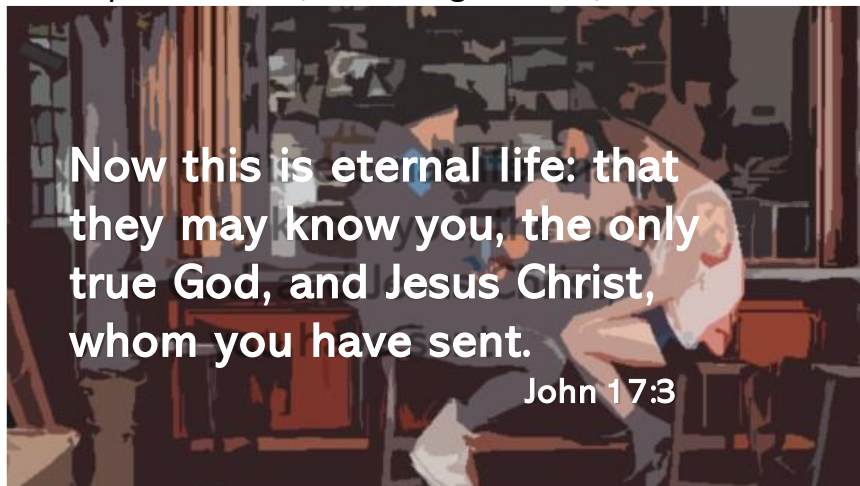
One only does so with those who are very, very close to them... a spouse, a child, maybe a parent, maybe a sibling.

The loud voice from the throne... v.3... says this is what God will do for his people... he will wipe away our tears.

What this tells us is just how relationally close... Jesus' followers will be with God when he lives among us.

That said, what will be our experience then... has already begun.

In this present time, according to Jesus, John 17:3...



... those who trust in him... are already in close relationship with the triune God, a relationship so significant that life from heaven has entered into us.

Jesus' followers don't just know facts about God.

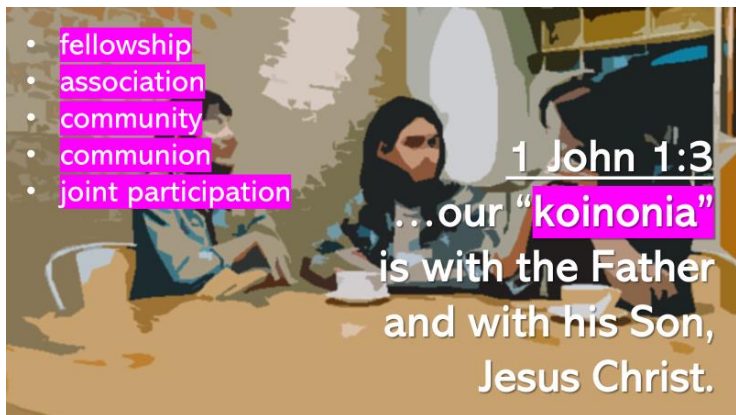
Our relationship with God... in the here and now... is a relationship of fellowship.



The word fellowship... in the language of the NT is “koinonia” ...



Koinonia means



Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon.

crosswalk.com says... **Koinonia describes a deep and close-knit community.**

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/what-every-christian-needs-to-know-about-koinonia.html>

In his book *Understanding Scripture*, John Piper writes...

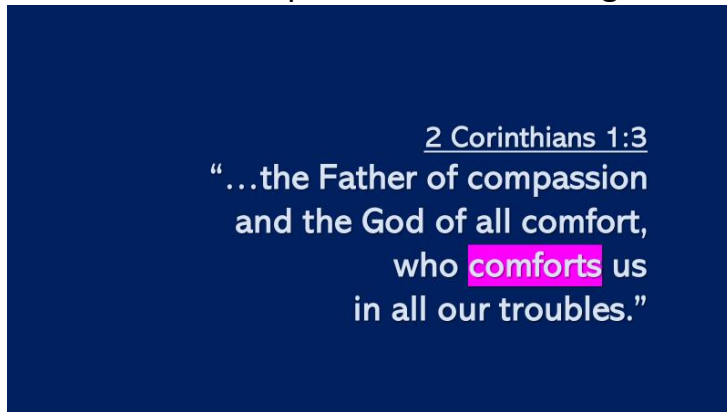
“Koinonia” is the result of God coming to us in love... and us responding joyfully to the beauty of his perfections and the offer of his salvation and fellowship.

The Bible says that we were created for the glory of God (Isaiah 43:7).

However, glorifying God is not something we do *after* fellowshiping with him, but that which we do *by* communing with him on the basis of our reconciliation to him through faith in Jesus Christ. p.46

When God dwells with and among his people, in a new heaven... and a new earth... and a new city... he will be so present... so near... that he will wipe the tears from our eyes.

2 Corinthians 1:3 speaks of God as being...



What is the tense of the verb used in this verse?

It is present tense.

God’s comfort is experienced in the here and now... when he speaks hope into our very being, when he gives us inner strength to carry on, when he pours his love into our hearts.

That said, we have not yet experienced God tenderly wiping away our tears.

This is a future hope...



...for when our faith becomes sight... when God will have transformed our bodies to be imperishable and immortal... when the grace of God that grants righteousness to us in this present time by faith in Jesus... will make our heart, soul and mind... completely perfect and pure.

So then, what could possibly cause the people of God to shed tears at the wedding of heaven and earth, at the wedding of Jesus and his people? We don't have to speculate.

The loud voice from the throne, which John heard, identified four things.

There will be
no more death or mourning
or crying or pain,
for the old order of things
has passed away.

Revelation 21:4

We all at varying points in our lives... encounter death – of loved ones, of dreams, of relationships... that bring mourning and crying into our hearts, and pain into our bodies and souls.

We all at varying points... encounter challenging and difficult circumstances, times when questions and doubts trouble and shakes our souls, when we feel overwhelmed by disappointment and unrealized dreams... and in such times... we experience mourning, crying and pain.

I wonder... when the dwelling of God is with his people, rather than sorrow... if it might be that the tears shed will be tears of relief and joy... as God himself makes all things right.

Gerhard Krodel writes about these four things that will be no more...saying...

[How surprising that] the effect of God's presence with and among his people is described negatively!

God must have done so because we lack the language to describe, as well as the capacity to grasp and understand the splendor of the new creation. p.347-348

But this we know with all certainty... the loud voice from the throne assured John that these four things... death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more, because.... **"the old order of things will have passed away."**

There is so much that is good and sweet about life here on the earth.

- There is beauty
- There is sound
- There are the experiences of love, joy and awe.
- There is the smell of good food cooking and the enjoyment of eating.
- There is the pleasure of touch and sexual intimacy.
- There is the kinship of conversation and laughter with good friends.
- I could go on and on and on...

But we also know... that in this present time... there is death, mourning, crying and pain.

How will these things be no more in the time of the new heaven, the new earth and the new city?

Again, we are not left to speculate.

The One seated on the throne provided the answer.

It is important to say that God did not say...



God has revealed in his written Word that he has no intention of throwing away his creation and starting over with a completely different plan.

What did God say to John?



All that sin and death... diminished, corrupted and ruined... will be made new... by the same God... who in the beginning... spoke everything into existence; the same God... who when he had finished creating... surveyed all he had made... and saw that everything was very good.

How do we know God is able to make everything new?

Look at what the triune God said through the prophet Isaiah regarding the power of his spoken word

“...my word that goes out
from my mouth
will not return to me empty
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose
for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

There is no question... in light of who God is... if he says, “I am making everything new,” that is exactly what he will do.

We will sing of this in our closing song... a song that draws upon a hymn based upon a poem written by Thomas Moore and then rewritten and put to music by Thomas Hastings in 1831.

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;
Come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel;
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish,
Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light of the straying,
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying—
Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure.

Here see the Bread of Life; see waters flowing
Forth from the throne of God, pure from above;
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing
Earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.

In the new creation the people of God will live an embodied life... on an earth and heaven that has been redeemed, reconciled and made new by the power... and love... and mercy... and grace of the One with whom nothing is impossible.

There is no sorrow within God's people that he cannot heal, cure and remove.

And when our God makes everything new, what does he intend for the redeemed to do in his new creation?

As he thought about this question... Anthony Hoekema, wrote an article in Christianity Today, September 1985.

The article was entitled, "Heaven: Not Just an Eternal Day Off."

Thinking of the work to be done by God's people in the new creation, Hoekema wondered...

Will there be better Beethoven's
on the new earth?

Better Rembrandts, better Raphael's?

Shall we read better poetry, better drama?

Will scientists continue to make
technological advances?

Will geologists continue to dig out
the treasures of the earth?

Will architects continue to build
awe-inspiring structures?

Will there be exploration
to the far reaches of the universe?

I do not believe that life in the new creation will be one of idleness. It will be a life of rest... but not a rest of the hammock or Lay-z-boy. The redeemed will know fulfillment and purpose and contentment and rest as we steward the new creation on God's behalf.

Dallas Willard in his book, *The Divine Conspiracy*, confirms, writing...
We will join with God... in his endlessly ongoing creative work.... p.378

Do you remember the parable told by Jesus the week before his crucifixion?



What the master spoke to the servants who had multiplied what they had been entrusted with... is relevant to what we do in this present time and the responsibilities we will be entrusted with in the new creation.

In the parable the master said...

**“Well done, good and faithful servant!
You have been faithful
with a few things,
I will put you in charge of many things.
Come and share your master’s happiness!”**

Matthew 25:21, 23

Dallas Willard goes and says...

**Our future responsibilities will be contingent upon our present faithfulness.
I suspect there will be many surprises when the new responsibilities are
assigned. p.398**

In the beginning our first parents were entrusted by God with the responsibility to steward the creation on God’s behalf, acting like God would if he were them. In the re-beginning... it will be the redeemed who are commissioned with the same task... to be stewards of the creation as God makes everything new.

As we close, I want to share this observation made by Tom Wright about this vision which John heard and saw and wrote down.

At the center of the vision...



...is not the new creation, nor what the redeemed will do.

At the center of it all... is the One, Triune God who made the first creation and loved it so much that God the Son was sent into the world to redeem in order to renew all things.

The home in which we will live forever – a new heaven and earth... and a new city... has at its center the gentle and kind God who wipes away every tear from the faces of his own.

This is the One who will live among us... and with us; the One we will adore and serve and enjoy forever.

Revelation 21:3-5

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"