

Where Righteousness Dwells

“But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2 Peter 3:13.

It's hard to imagine that everything on this earth will be destroyed. That great national structures like the Eiffel Tower or the Statue of Liberty will be destroyed and brought to nothing. Or that great works of art like Michelangelo's David or the music of Beethoven or the plays of Shakespeare will be shattered to smithereens. But this is assured. Even nonreligious people agree because scientifically we know that the sun will one day burn out and everything will be destroyed. But there are some things that will never end. Things that are the very attributes of God. We read in 1 Corinthians 13 that love never ends. It is an eternal attribute. It exists outside of time. Here we see that righteousness will not end. This is something that's very comforting to look forward to. That righteousness will dwell in the new heavens and new earth.

This becomes appealing especially after spending a lot of time around unrighteousness. When we think of heaven as the place where we get to do whatever we want, then heaven seems like a good idea even to those who like unrighteousness, because it seems as if they'll get to continue in their unrighteousness. But when we understand that God will be there and that there will be righteousness, that's very appealing. It's comforting to know that there will be a place where there is justice and not injustice. In fact, injustice is not something we will experience again. It is a place where there is truth spoken and not lies. We won't need to judge whether or not people are telling the truth, or if they're telling lies or half-truths. We won't have to worry about being wronged in any way. It's a place where people will do the right thing all the time. It's a place where righteousness dwells.

This is what we wait for in verse 13. We wait for it like a person sitting at a restaurant waiting for their food. A person doesn't place an order and hope the order comes, and if it doesn't, then that's OK. A person waits with the full belief that the food will come. We are waiting for this as a person waits for the arrival of an out-of-town friend. We wait for it because it is actually going to happen. We wait for it because it is something that's better than what we have now and because this thing that is better has been assured to us by an all-powerful God who cannot lie. **[DJR]**