

## The City to Come

Hebrews 13:14

*“For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.”*

The “city to come” is heaven. The word city (Gr. *polis*) is used in Hebrews 11:10 in describing the reason why Abraham “lived in tents” in Canaan, as a “sojourner”—one passing through this life; “*for he was looking for **the city** which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*” This is the city described by John as “*the Holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven,*” the dwelling place of God and His people for eternity (Rev. 21:2). We know of this city by personal intuition and Divine instruction. The key word is the word *seeking* which means “to endeavor to discover.” A couple of questions for you:

1. Are you **personally** seeking to discover more about your final destination? **We** are seeking.
2. Are you **actively** seeking to discover more about your final destination? **We are** seeking.
3. Are you **daily** seeking to discover more about your final destination? We are **seeking**.

### I. Seeking the City to come will keep you from exasperation – “*For here we do not have a **lasting** city ...*”

This you know intuitively. You can’t live in this world for very long without discovering nothing lasts.

- A. Relationships here that are not centered in Christ don’t last.** People may think they are in love, but apart from Christ, there is no relationship *here* that is lasting. Fractured relationships here, especially among followers of Christ, are inconsistent with the entire nature of true Christianity.
- B. Riches here don’t last.** “*Naked I came into this world, and naked will I return,*” said Job. “*Blessed be the name of the Lord.*” The wise man (or woman) is he who “*uses his money on earth to make friends.*” This is precisely what Jesus told us to do (Luke 16:1-13). *We are called by our Savior to be generous with our worldly possessions, using them to make eternal friendships.* He who discovers this principle voluntarily strips himself of his riches before they are stripped from him. And, ironically, the person generous in this manner “is welcomed into many homes in that City.”
- C. Recognition here does not last.** It is better to seek honor by the King there than to be king here.

### II. Seeking the City to come will fill you with expectation – “*... **but** we are seeking the city to come.*”

The conjunctive word “but” is a word of contrast. The city here is not lasting; but the City to come is! There are a few things that should fill your hearts with great expectation for the City which is coming.

- A. It is a city with a specific location** – called a city with foundations; a tangible city with homes.
- B. It is a city with a special population** – the people of Christ never age, having been freed from the curse of sin. There is no death, no dysfunction, no diminishing of others through denigration. Best friends here who have loved Christ will find their best friends waiting for them in that City.
- C. It is a city with a symphonic occupation** – work is not labor; it is the free, enjoyable expression of the giftedness given to us by God. Artists will create. Architects will build. Writers will narrate. Musicians will play. New crafts, new jobs, new occupations will be learned. Just as the ancient cities had occupations, the City to come will be occupied with a coordinated celebration of life.
- D. It is a city with a Sovereign Coronation** – Yahweh (Father God) said to the Lord (Jesus Christ) “Sit at my right hand until I put all your enemies under your feet” (Psalm 110:1 and Heb. 1:13).

### III. Seeking the City to come will give you real elevation – “*... **but** we are **seeking** the city to come.*”

When you seek the City to come, the City that will “descend out of heaven” everything will be raised. Your eyes are raised (animals never look up); your character is lifted; your entire life will be elevated. “*Set your affections and your mind on things above and not on those things here*” (Colossians 3:2).