

Our Town

Text: Rev. 21:1-4

The Northern KY Greater Cincinnati area and the surrounding area have a lot to offer for our pleasure and enjoyment. A quick look at the website for tourism reveals dozens of places and activities.

RiverBend music center

Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati Museums Center, Cincinnati Art Museum, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Contemporary Arts Center
Ohio River- fishing, boating, hiking, Purple People Bridge, BB Riverboats
Big Boone Lick State Park

KY Speedway

Newport Aquarium & Newport on the Levee

Red's & Bengals

King's Island

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens

Airport

Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame

Bill Tingles farm.

I couldn't help but think how fortunate we should be for being so "cultured" and having so many options. Yet as I pondered these things, there were some things in our town I notice which were very depressing as well.

I. Our Area Has Buildings of Temptation.

A. Everyone is at risk who lives in this area because in our area you will find adult stores, nightclubs, places to gamble (legally or not), crack houses, meth labs, houses of prostitution, bars and liquor stores.

B. Everyone of these places offer pleasure to the mind and body. These pleasures are short lived and in many cases shorten the life of the participant. They are, as described in scripture, lusts of the flesh.

1. Gal. 5:19-21

2. But in heaven none of these structures will be found there, only a facility which brings true pleasure

- a. Rev. 21:27
- b. Rev. 21:18, 19a)

3. Even our cravings will be different. Jesus said that we shall be like the angels

- a. Matt. 22:30
- b. Old passions and lusts are given up for the desire to praise the Lamb that saved us from our sinful and self destructive nature
Rev. 5:8-14

4. If you like the sensual worldly pleasures our town has to offer, you won't like heaven.

II. Our Town Has Security Lights.

A. Robbery, rape, violence, gang wars, behavior of being under the influence of controlled substances runs rampant in our area so we install surveillance equipment & night lights. We install complicated alarm systems and purchase locks to make us feel safe in our homes. Some of us carry a weapon for security. Those buildings of temptation has brought fear into our lives from those who participate in them.

B. But in heaven no extra lighting is needed

- 1. Rev. 22:5 There are no locks on the city gates
- 2. Rev. 21:23-25 There will be no 'doing things behind closed doors.' You will find no security detail marching the streets for our Adversary
- 3. The Devil and his armies will be conquered being imprisoned in outer darkness for eternity. Matt. 25:30, 41

III. Because some citizens are violent our area has many Jails (Most of which are overcrowded).

A. There is a price to pay in our town for having too much fun at the expense of another. Those who buck the system, those who violate the rights of another, those who bring shame on this town are thrown in jail.

B. Jail is full of criminals, law breakers.

C. But in heaven there is no need for jail.

a. All that would offend God does not have residence in heaven Rev. 21:8.

b. Heaven's citizens are of a different nature Phil. 3:17-20.

c. They are people who are filled with the HOLY spirit of God Gal. 5:22f.

IV. Other kinds of buildings which describe our insufficiency. See, our town is full of sick folk. So Our Town Has Doctor Offices, Drug Stores, and Hospitals..... Now these are good to visit when we are sick. But sickness came about because of sin. There are too many illness to enumerate in this lesson. But we go to the doctor when we feel pain, have uncontrollable anxieties and he prescribes a medication which may help us feel better and live longer. Then we head off to the pharmacy to fill our 'scripts. If they don't work we may find ourselves in the hospital. In there we find people who have been injured, diseased, maimed, struggling with disorders.

A. But in heaven there is no need for these (Rev. 22:1-3). We will be in the mist of The Great Physician. Medical buildings indicate that there is something wrong with me - in heaven I will not be in pain, I will have no anxieties, I will not become injured, I will not get sick, I shall never become diseased.

B. There may be folks who were doctors in heaven, but they shall have no employment, no staff will be following them around. Yes in heaven all my medical records will be destroyed!

V. Our Town Has A Nursing Home. These facilities are designed to help the infirm, aged, and the handicapped until their time on earth is up.

A. The Preacher wrote, (Eccles. 12:1, 2). Nursing homes can conjure depressing emotions from the healthy. Even the caretakers suffer from 'burn out.'

B. But up in heaven we will be forever young, “for the former things are passed away”

1. Rev. 21:4

2. Jesus promised all those who lived faithful until death (Rev. 2:10) may have eternal life.

3. Jn. 6:40 I don't know what age I will appear when I get to heaven, but one thing I know, I will not see a cane, walker, or a back that is bent. I will see no arthritic twisted bodies or elderly people tied to their wheel chair.

VI. Our Town also Has A Funeral Home. Whether it family run or a national chain, nobody can ease the burden of that business at hand. You can put a smiling face on a billboard advertising its services but inside that facility, tears fall.

A. “Better to go to the house of mourning” (Eccles. 7:2) “for the living will take it to heart.”

B. But in heaven there will be no preparation for a dead body Rev. 21:3-4

C. Jesus died here on earth (just like we will one day). Now He ever lives to intercede for us until the end of time then to be with us throughout all eternity!

Our Town Has A Cemetery