

Counterfeit Heavens: How Treasuring Our Eternal Home Invalidates Addiction's Lies

Elyse Fitzpatrick

My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

(Phil 1:23)

Every addiction is an out-of-control, out-of-place, distorted longing for home.

- 1) The human heart is meant to live in our true Home. Here we have “no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come” (Heb 13:14). Because we don't, we now long for:
 - a) Relationships lived in transparency without shame
 - b) Physical, mental, and emotional pleasures
 - c) Freedom from guilt
 - d) Freedom from pain
 - e) Abundant inheritances
 - f) God-glorifying work
 - g) Ongoing discovery
 - h) Eternal joys
- 2) The human heart is *incurvatus in se*, so we're all homesick (Romans 3:10f)
- 3) The human heart is hopeless and sees no options for true joy here (Eph 2:12)
 - a) This may be especially true in those who have lived previous lives of hopelessness, who have never known the satisfaction of waiting for *and* receiving a promised good.
- 4) The human heart is also impatient and unbelieving (Romans 3:18)
- 5) The human heart (and physical body) can be re-habituated to wait for its true Home with faith and patience (1 Cor 6:11)

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- 6) The (redeemed) human heart *will* eternally enjoy all the good that it longs for in our true Home.
 - a) Complete loving, transparent, eternal, face-to-face relationships with the Lord and others (1 John 3:2-3; Rev 7)
 - b) Surprisingly delightful pleasures without any regret—forever! (Psa 16:11)
 - c) No consciousness of guilt remaining; no need to anesthetize the soul (1 Cor 1:8)
 - d) No physical, emotional, societal pain to try to hide from (Rev 21:4)
 - e) Overabundant riches, lacking nothing (Rev 22:1-5)
 - f) Satisfying, blessed work free from the curse of sin (Gen 2:15)
 - g) An eternity to learn and grow in wisdom and knowledge and love (Rev 21:1-6)
 - h) As C. S. Lewis said, “Joy is the business of heaven.”
- 7) Encouraging patience (James 5:7-8)
 - a) I can have that later...only better.
 - b) That's something I'll enjoy eternally, without harming myself or others.
 - c) Giving into this temptation will only result in more pain. So I can wait.
 - d) I need to live in the light of my present forgiveness and perfections.
Remember the gospel!
 - e) God has promised me an eternal life of blessing. I'm just in the waiting room now awaiting the calling of my name.

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- 8) Encouraging faithful living (Proverbs 3:3):
 - a) I can practice the life of love that I will be living there by loving my neighbor now (Col 3:14).
 - b) I can practice the life of love that I will be swimming in there by loving Jesus now (Matt 22:36-40).
 - c) Jesus understands the pull of habits. He understands the longing for our true Home. He knew what it was like to patiently wait and to face despair (Heb 4:15; John 13:1, Matt 27:46).
 - d) And the resurrection proves that He's gone on before us and will unquestionably open the door to our true Home for us (Heb 12:1-3)
 - e) And we will be resurrected with new guilt-free, pain-free, glorious bodies like His, meant to live forever in joyous transparency and unity (Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 15).