

Will there be work in heaven? And does it matter?

John Lovatt looks at what sort of heaven the Bible expects after the Second Coming, and finds that the earth will be renewed rather than destroyed and replaced. This implies that our work here and now will also be transformed. Nothing will be lost. This joyful anticipation of our work not being lost but made perfect encourages us to do all our work for the glory of God.

The story is told of a man who died and found himself in a region of fabulous abundance. His slightest wish was instantly granted. At last, however, the novelty wore off and he became bored. He told his host he would love to do something. Was there any work he could perform, or any problem he could help solve? His host said, “I am sorry, but there is no work to be done here.” “No work!” cried the man in frustration. “Nothing to do!” he shouted. “I

would rather be in hell than have nothing to do forever.” His host replied, “Just where do you think you are?”¹

Heavenly work?

*The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling
together,
and a little child shall lead them.*
(Isaiah 11:6)

This picture of the ultimate *shalom*, or heavenly peace, includes work. That is, the little child ‘leads’ domestic and wild animals. The Hebrew word for ‘lead’ is *no-heg* which actually means to ‘drive forth’ – quite an active form of work. This picture of work implies that it will be easy, a little child can do it, and that the animals have no sin, are well behaved and live peaceably with one another. As a former dairy farmer, I will much appreciate that situation.

