

Crucial Questions

What Will Heaven Be Like?

CONNECT:

When you think of heaven, what comes to mind?

PREPARE:

After reading the following quote, why do you think having a proper understanding or view of heaven is so important?

“If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next...it is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective at this. Aim at heaven and you will get earth “thrown in”; aim at earth and you will get neither”.

- C.S. Lewis

STUDY AND DISCUSS:

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 and Colossians 3:1-2. How do these verses help you in thinking about heaven?
- How did the early church struggle with their view of eternity? How did gnosticism and Platonism play into this struggle?
- Read the following quote:

“We are not, as Plato supposed, merely spiritual beings temporarily encased in bodies. Adam did not become a “living being” — the Hebrew word Nephesh — until he was both body and spirit (Genesis 2:7). We are physical beings as much as we are spiritual beings”

- Randy Alcorn

- Nephesh: living being, complete person, soul; If we are physical beings created for eternity, and heaven is a physical place with physical bodies, how does that impact the importance of the way we live our lives in the ‘here and now’?
- How is Genesis 1:1 a statement of what the entire Bible is about?
- What is significant about the dwelling place of God?

Community Group Discussion Questions

- Read John 1:1-3 and John 1:14. How are these passages significant to our view of heaven?
- Three Aspects of Heaven:
 - Heaven is a place for God's dwelling. Read Revelation 21:3-4
 - Heaven in a place with God's blessing. Read John 1:12-13.
 - Heaven is a place of God's glory. Read Colossians 1:19.

RESPONSE:

“The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there? ”

- John Piper

The point of heaven is Jesus. If your answer to the above question is “yes”, please talk to your group leader, a pastor or someone on staff.

PRAY

Lord, you have given us the ability to imagine. Please increase our imagination of heaven and see our lives and the way we are living now in light of eternity. Amen.