

2

WHAT
THE BIBLE
SAYS ABOUT

Heaven. What Will It Be Like?

HEAVEN

Key Texts: Revelation 21

1 Corinthians 15

OPEN

Last week we look at why we need to talk more about heaven. This week, we look at some of what the Bible says heaven will be like. Some of what we read about what heaven will be like in God's Word may surprise us, as it may not be what we think. What we see in God's Word this week is that when we have a right view of heaven, it changes how we live now. It changes our attitude toward heaven. It changes how we consider God's creation. And a right view of heaven also motivates us to live in light of the rewards of heaven.

As we seek a right view of heaven, not based on what we think but by what God reveals to us in his Word, this week we look to dispel three common myths people sometimes have about heaven with what the Bible actually says. As you consider your view of heaven, how much do you think you need an update in your thinking about heaven when confronted with what the Bible actually teaches? Let's find out!

REFLECT

- Our main text this week is Revelation 21. As an exercise, individually or with your group, read aloud through the whole chapter, from beginning to end with out pausing to get a greater perspective on the picture John is giving in this vision of heaven.
- After reading through all of Revelation, what are the three most vivid or attention catching points or pictures of heaven for you? Share.
- What aspect of John's words in Revelation 21 were most difficult to understand, or accept, in the text? Why?
- How is the New Jerusalem described in the text? What imagery and descriptions are used and what do these various descriptions of the city communicate about our heavenly destiny?

DISCUSS

- As a concept, in the past, or even now, do you relate the thought of heaven seeming boring? Share.
- As an opener, what has been your view of heaven up until this week's message? Where do think your key thoughts about heaven come from? Church? Culture? Someone's teaching?
- From the message, what surprised you most about the Bible's words on heaven? Were there any surprises for you?
- What aspect of your view, if any, was most updated in terms of what the Bible says about heaven as presented on Sunday?
- Much was said about heaven this week in terms of the nature of heaven. Related to what was presented in this week's sermon, what questions did these 3 truths on heaven further spark for you?
- In the message, the Bible's words on heavenly rewards was referenced. How does the concept of heavenly reward rest with you? Is that a concept that makes sense to you, or one that you struggle with?
- With sanctified imagination, what do you think people will do in eternity in the new heaven and the new earth? Where do you think like will go from there? Gardening, building, travel?
- In your thoughts, how do you reconcile the concept of reward with the concept of God's grace? Can the two go together?
- Finally, does hearing about a 'renewed' earth change how you think of our current earth? As a value on God's creation, does it motivate you to care more for the earth now? Why? Why not?

APPLY/PRAY

1. Thank God for...HEAVEN

As you think about what heaven is and will be...give God the praise and thank him in advance for the place he has prepared for you in Christ.

2. Read Revelation 4 & 5 to guide a group time of worship.

Consider Revelation 4 & 5 and join in as a group before God with worship. Take the words of these chapters in regards to worship and make them your own as a group by ministering to God in praise.

