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WHAT
THE BIBLE
SAYS ABOUT

HEAVEN

Heaven. Why Talk About?

Key Texts: John 14:1-3

Colossians 3:1-4

OPEN

Heaven. It's a huge topic in the New Testament but not one we talk a lot about. Over the next few weeks we want to look together at some of the things the Bible teaches us about the reality of heaven...what is heaven like? What is heaven about? What does the Bible say about some of our questions about heaven? And we will also look briefly at what Jesus says about the 'other place,' about the reality of hell.

This week we begin by looking at Jesus' words in John 14:1-4 and then the apostle Paul's words in Colossians 3:1-4. Both are about heaven, even though neither actually use the word. Heaven is a concept that can be hard for us to get our head around. God doesn't tell us everything we want to know about heaven. Just what we need to know. But if we are not sure exactly what heaven will be like, then why talk about it? This week in Sunday's message we look at 4 reasons that are also able to change how we live and experience life now.

REFLECT

- Read Jesus' words to the disciples in John 14:1-4. What is the greater context of Jesus' words? If Jesus is speaking about heaven, what observations, or things about heaven, can you deduce from his words? What do Jesus' words to them suggest about heaven?
- In reading further in John 14, what was the reaction, or question, of Thomas and how does Jesus answer? What exactly is Thomas asking? What exactly do you think Jesus is saying in his answer?
- Now shift to the apostle Paul's words in Colossians 3:1-4. Take a look at these four verses and break down the content of what he says in these verses. What different things does he say and how do they appear to relate to one another?

DISCUSS

- As an opener to your group discussion, go around and ask one another about how much you think about heaven? Honestly, how much? A lot, a little?
- Share what most comes to your mind about heaven when you think of it.
- Share one question you have about heaven. How many different types of questions came up? Consider emailing some to Pastor Shane to possibly tackle in an upcoming sermon.
- Like Thomas in John 14, heaven can be a hard concept to grasp. Why do you think heaven is hard for us to think about? Why do you think the topic of heaven doesn't seem to come up a lot?
- Review together the 4 reasons why, as believers in Jesus, we should talk about heaven. Can you remember them?:) Which one stands out to you most and why?
- In the message, a C. S. Lewis quote was mentioned about believers being 'too heavenly minded' to be of any earthly good. What do you think about that statement? Fair? Not true? What are your thoughts?
- Opinion question: how much do you think people's thoughts about heaven are informed by the Bible (inc. believers)?
- In the message, the simple physical exercise of intentionally 'looking up' at the sky at least once in the day as a way to keep focused on heaven was mentioned. What are some other practical ways – maybe even better ways to stay focused on 'things above'? Brainstorm.

APPLY/PRAY

1. Share A Current Burden

One of the the reasons we keep focused on heaven is to help us stay in a place of hope in regards to the heavy things we experience in life: Courageously open up to one another and share a burden you are carrying right now and have one another pray for those things.

2. Pray for Greater Eternal Perspective

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you and your group develop a more eternal perspective on life. Ask God for wisdom as to how best to make decisions this week in your time and other areas in light of life being short.

