



## *Is Heaven for Real?*

### The Heaven Series - Week 1

**Introduction:** Why is a study on what the Bible says about Heaven so important? Because what we believe about Heaven determines how we live today.

→ **Note this:** Thomas Campbell has said, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent."

**Notice this:** In the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3, it tells us in verses 1 and 2, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens. A time to be born and a time to die ..." Part of the story of life is that everyone eventually faces death.

### Three options regarding life after death

**Option #1** - Nothing happens after we die and we just cease to exist.

**Option #2** - Something happens after we die but no one knows what for sure.

**Option #3** - We can believe the words of the only one who has been in Heaven and has come back to life after death - Jesus.

\* **John 3:13**, "No one has ever gone to Heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from Heaven."

\* **John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

### What Jesus said about the afterlife lets us know ...

1. We don't have to live life in fear of death.

\* **1 Corinthians 15:55; 57**, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Heaven is a real place and we can go there.

\* **John 14:2-3**, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

3. We don't have to say goodbye to believing family members and friends who have died.

\* **1 Thessalonians 4:14**, "We believe that Jesus died and was raised to life. We also believe that when God brings Jesus back again, He will bring with Him all who had faith in Jesus before they died."

\* **1 Corinthians 13:12**, "Then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

→ **Note this:** In Heaven, our relationships are not lost - they are renewed.

4. This life can be tough at times, but for the believer, the best is yet to come!

\* **Romans 8:18**, "Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."



## *What Happens When We Die?*

### The Heaven Series - Week 2

**Series Key Truth:** A study on what the Bible says about Heaven is important because what we believe about Heaven determines how we live our lives today.

**Introduction:** How wonderful that Christians need not wonder or worry about death or life after death because God has told us about this in His Word. We don't have to look to human speculation about life after death because we have divine revelation from God (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

→ **Note this:** The apostle Paul is not saying that Christians shouldn't grieve. Being able to grieve the loss of a loved one is something God has given us as part of our healing process. What Paul was saying we shouldn't do is grieve as those who have no hope of life after death. Christians do not have to grieve as if they had nothing but "unending hopelessness" for their believing loved one and "unending hopelessness" of ever being reunited with them again. Christians can grieve but we are not to grieve as those who have no hope. Our faith gives us hope.

### Three things that happen when we die

#### 1. Our physical bodies cease to exist.

(2 Corinthians 5:1)

→ **Note this:** Paul compares our bodies to a tent because a tent is a temporary structure. These earthly bodies are temporary bodies. One day, God will give us eternal bodies, but for now, in this sin-cursed world, our bodies are temporary and wear out (2 Corinthians 4:16).

#### 2. Our spirits separate from our physical bodies.

(2 Corinthians 5:8)

→ **Note this:** One day our physical bodies will cease to exist but our spirit will continue to live forever in Heaven with our Lord (Philippians 1:23).

#### 3. Our spirits will arrive immediately in Heaven to be with our Lord and other believing family members and friends.

(John 14:3)

→ **Note this:** One second after your last heartbeat, you will be ushered into a most glorious place that is beyond our ability to imagine (1 Corinthians 2:9). One second after your last heartbeat, you will be where you were always meant to be. On this side of Heaven, we say when someone has passed, "He has departed." But on the other side of Heaven, they say when someone has passed, "He has arrived!"



## *What You Will Be Like in Heaven*

The Heaven Series - Week 3

**Series Key Truth:** A study on what the Bible says about Heaven is important because what we believe about Heaven determines how we live our lives today.

**Our Question:** "Will I still be me in Heaven?"

**The Bible's answer:** "You will still be you in Heaven but an improved you."

**Scripture references:** Matthew 8:11; Luke 16:22-23; Matthew 26:29; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 13:10.

→ **Note this:** The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:10: "But when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears." Someday when we arrive in Heaven that which is imperfect about us will disappear. We will still have the same personality but it will be a perfected personality. Any imperfect character flaws will be gone.

**Our Question:** "What will my body be like in Heaven?"

**The Bible's answer:** "We will have similar-looking bodies like the ones we have now except they will be perfect bodies."

**Scripture references:** Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44.

→ **Note this:** The good news is in Heaven we get new and improved bodies which will never give out or wear out (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

Three main things the Bible tells us about our future new bodies

1. **Our new bodies will be imperishable.**

\* 1 Corinthians 15:42-43a, "The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory."

→ **Note this:** Whatever physical pain you may suffer in the here and now, just know, in the hereafter, you will experience it no more!

2. **Our new bodies will be incredible.**

\* 1 Corinthians 15:43b, "They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength."

→ **Note this:** Our earthly bodies always get exhausted. We run out of strength and the longer we live our lack of energy is more noticeable. But our new bodies will always be full of energy, will never get exhausted, and will even be capable of doing incredible things.

3. **Our new bodies will be infinite.**

\* 1 Corinthians 15:44, "They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies."

→ **Note this:** Our physical bodies eventually wear out but our new bodies will last forever. Whereas our natural human bodies are created for life on earth, our new bodies are created for life in Heaven and for eternity. A thousand years from now, we will look the same as we did on our first day in Heaven.

**Our Question:** "Will we eat in Heaven?"

**The Bible's answer:** Yes. Not because we will need to eat, but because of the pleasure it brings us and the fellowship it provides in eating with others.

**Scripture references:** Luke 24:41-43; John 21:12-13; Revelation 19:9.



## *Will We Get Bored in the Sweet By and By?*

The Heaven Series - Week 4

**Series Key Truth:** A study on what the Bible says about Heaven is important because what we believe about Heaven determines how we live our lives today.

**Our Question** - *"What will we do in Heaven?"*

**The Bible's Answer:** In Heaven, we will be involved in meaningful, enjoyable, rewarding, and fulfilling activities throughout all of eternity.

**Scripture References:** Psalm 16:11; Matthew 25:21; Genesis 2:15; Genesis 2:19-20; Genesis 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Romans 8:22-23.

### **Four Reasons Heaven Won't Be Boring**

**Reason #1 - Heaven won't be boring because God is not boring.**

→ **Note this:** Ultimately, to believe that Heaven could be boring is to wrongly think that God could be boring. However, throughout the existence of all time, one thing God has never been is boring. Our God is a God of action, creativity, inventiveness, originality and much more!

**Reason #2 - Heaven won't be boring because what we do in Heaven will not be boring.**

→ **Note this:** It is beneficial for us to remember that when God first created our perfect world, Adam and Eve didn't lie around in hammocks all day in the Garden of Eden. They were involved in activities. For example, when God created Adam, the Bible tells us in Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it." God placed Adam in the most beautiful garden paradise ever, and yet God gave Adam fulfilling activities to do.

**Reason #3 - Heaven won't be boring because our eternal friendships and fellowship will never be boring.**

→ **Note this:** "Every Christian friend that goes before us from this world is waiting to welcome us in Heaven... There, the Christian father, mother, wife, child, and friend whose relationship was interrupted by death here, shall continue that relationship again in Heaven, and shall never end." - Jonathan Edwards

**Reason #4 - Heaven will not be boring because in Heaven we will finally be home, the place we've always longed for.**

→ **Note this:** The reason we love certain things in this world like a beautiful sunset, the gushing of a sparking waterfall, the majestic view of tall tree-filled mountains, the warmth of family love, the treasure of genuine friendships, and experiences that bring us joy, is because they are all a brief preview of what Heaven will be like.

**Conclusion:** When we sing, *"When we've been there ten thousand years,"* we have no need for dread or doubt about boredom ten thousand years later in Heaven. After ten thousand years, we will look back and say, "How little did I know back then. How much greater is my love and praise for God now. And how much more I will still enjoy God and others throughout all eternity in Heaven!"



## *Does Everyone Go to Heaven?*

### The Heaven Series - Week 5

**Series Key Truth:** A study on what the Bible says about Heaven is important because what we believe about Heaven determines how we live our lives today.

→ **Our Question** - "Does everyone go to Heaven?"

**The Bible's Answer:** No. Heaven is available to everyone, but those who reject God and His offer of salvation will not spend eternity in Heaven with God but will spend eternity in Hell without God.

**Scripture References:** 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16; Luke 16:19-31; Hebrews 9:27; Ephesians 2:8-9; Psalm 145:17.

#### **Two general views about Heaven after this life**

**View #1** - Everyone goes to Heaven.

**View #2** - Although anyone can go to Heaven, not everyone will go there.

→ **The Big Question:** "Why would a loving God send people to a place of punishment like Hell?"

**Response #1** - God doesn't send anyone to Hell.

**Response #2** - God has given everyone a free will and will not force anyone to want Him - even though He wants us. Ultimately, God honors our will concerning our choice of eternity with or without Him.

**Response #3** - Hell is a real place but no one has to go there.

#### **A concluding thought about understanding Hell**

Even if I don't completely understand everything about Hell, and I don't, I must be true to what the Bible teaches. Although there are things beyond what my limited mind can understand, I believe the Lord is perfect in all His ways and does no wrong (Psalm 145:17; Deuteronomy 32:4).

→ **Our Question** - "Why doesn't the Bible tell us more about Heaven?"

**The Bible's Answer:** Everything we need to know about Heaven is in the Bible. It may not tell us everything we WANT to know about Heaven, but it does tell us everything we NEED to know about Heaven.

**Scripture Reference:** Psalm 19:7: "The Law of the Lord is perfect ..."

#### **Know this about what we don't know about Heaven**

1. The Bible provides us with the essentials of what we need to know about Heaven.
2. Earthly words can't even come close to describing Heavenly things.
3. A glimpse of Heaven is all we can handle for now.