

Pursuing Heaven

Key Scriptures

Hebrews 11:13-16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 13:14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Revelation 21:3-5 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Key Point: We should be living in light of our future reality, eternity in The City of God.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is your favorite thing to do for pleasure/leisure? What do you think people in Jesus' time did for pleasure/leisure?

Start thinking: Choose questions to get your group thinking.

In Sunday's message, Ashish gave us a biblical overview of God's relationship with man, in Him working to dwell with his people directly—a face to face fellowship. He is building an everlasting city to make this a reality. **"I will be their God and they shall be my people** is one of the most important summaries of the Bible." Alec Motyer (Jeremiah 32:38)

- What did you hear on Sunday that stuck out to you, that made you think, or that you have questions about?
- Why do you think God wanted to create humanity, and wants us to have a relationship with Him?
- Read Revelation 21:1-8, 22-27, 22:1-5. What descriptions of the New Heaven and new earth stand out to you?
- What does it mean when God says "I am making all things new."? (Rev 21:5) How is this different from "making new things"?

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- In light of the statement in Hebrews 11:13-16, what should our lifestyles and daily mentality be like?
- What can we do as the church to make our time together as much like Gods heavenly city and community as possible? (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Start doing: Because the Spirit of God dwells within Christians, how should the church be different than the rest of the world? How does your perspective need to be changed this week?

Prayer Requests: Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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