

Rethinking Heaven

Key Scriptures

John 14:1-3 "Let not your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Colossians 3:1-3

Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, ³ for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

Key Point: Misconceptions about heaven can be devastating. We must strive to think accurately about it and let it influence our daily lives.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What movie, song, or book comes to mind when bringing up the subject of heaven?

Start thinking: Choose questions to get your group thinking.

- What are some of the common misconceptions people have about Heaven? Where do they get these ideas?
- What are the three ways the writers of scripture use the word Heaven? What is a fourth way that our culture uses it today?
- How is 1 Cor 2:9 often misused and misunderstood? What is the passage telling us?
- In Colossians 3:1-3, we are called to seek and think about things above. What are some accurate ways we can define and understand this "above" mindset? How can we actively seek and pursue a "Heavenly" mindset?
- Kyle said that Heaven will be like a reinstitution of what God created in the garden of Eden, where we were designed to relate & create. Based on this, what are the three main things believers will be doing in Heaven?

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- How does our view of Heaven impact our priorities, relationships, and overall perspective in life?
- Rev 13:6 indicates that Satan is focused on slandering Heaven. Why do you think he is focused on this? In what ways can faulty views about Heaven (and Hell) lead us to a wasted life on earth?
- What relationship do you see between overcoming challenges/temptation and one's view of heaven? How does your understanding of the reality of Heaven help you persevere when your heart is troubled? (John 14:1-3)

Start doing: As you read through the Bible, try to notice any time there is a mention or description of Heaven. Take some time to read the description of the new Heaven and new Earth in Revelation 21-22. As you do this it will give you an understanding of what God has planned for us to look forward to.

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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