

Heaven - Revelation 21:1-8

Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Top 10 question this week: *What is Heaven and What will it Be Like?*

The Apostle John was near the end of his life and imprisoned on the island of Patmos when an angel appears to John and gives him a vision of what is to take place. The vision is recorded in the book of Revelation, 22 chapters of what John saw and heard. He talks about heaven throughout the book and when he gets to chapter 21 he provides some details that offer real hope and comfort to us as we journey through this fallen world.

That the topic of heaven was suggested and then voted into this series is a healthy sign that our church is practicing what we are taught in Colossians, Chapter 3, verse 2. "Set your minds on things above, not on things that are on earth." Paul was reminding that church to focus on things yet to come. It's beneficial for us to do the same. God has prepared an inheritance for his followers that is incorruptible. Focusing on things can shift our focus off of our present earthly comforts which all tend to break down. Setting our minds on things above provides us hope as we face the injustices that this world has. It makes the suffering that we face individually and witness happening to others bearable since we have been told that they will end someday. In the apostle Peter's first letter he instructs us to set our hope fully on the grace that will be revealed. The author of Hebrews, in the series that we just completed told that church to focus on the New Jerusalem, another depiction of heaven, of the restoration to come. Our savior, Jesus, spoke frequently about heaven during His time on earth. How often do we see the phrase from Him, "The Kingdom of God is like".

It's a good and healthy thing to focus on our eternal home. It serves as encouragement to us individually and as a church body. It should also inspire us to share the good news of a world restored to those in our circles who don't know Jesus.

There are two books that I recommend on the topic of heaven that give more detail of what heaven is and what it might be like. Heaven, by Randy Alcorn, draws conclusions from scripture on what we can expect when we dwell with God in our eternal home. We are going to read this book and use the study guide in our next Genesis Institute class on Sunday morning. The second book is also titled Heaven. It's from a series called Theology in Community. This book has 11 contributing authors, each of them write a chapter that focuses on an aspect of heaven or a section of scripture that talks about heaven. The book is edited by Christopher Morgan and Robert Peterson, if you are looking for names on the cover to verify you have the right book.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Matthew 2	Matthew 3	Matthew 4	Matthew 5	Matthew 6	Matthew 7	Matthew 8

Reading from this past week's sermon: Revelation 21:1-8
Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 1 Peter 1:16-21

Family Worship

Song - *The Lord, My God, My Salvation*

<https://youtu.be/RgikQg40ZEw?feature=shared>

Gospel Project

Unit: King David

Story: David Sinned and Was Restored

Big Picture Question: Is there anyone or anything greater than God?

Answer: No, God is greater than everything and everyone

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11-12, Psalm 51

New City Catechism

Question 31: What do we believe by true faith?

Answer: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Verse: Jude 3

Revelation 21:1-8

- What images about heaven in this passage do you find most beautiful and hopeful?
- Why is it important to realize that heaven refers to a very real place and real existence beyond this life? How does this belief help us live our lives now?
- How is our resurrection from the dead tied to the idea of the new heaven and new earth?
- According to this text (and others about heaven), what is the true prize in the new heaven and new earth?

Prayer

*Pray that we would set our eyes on the hope of heaven and find strength to live for Jesus in our earthly life.

*Pray for the Cotinga Foundation and their mission trip leaving this weekend to Guatemala, which includes Bob & Terry Lancaster and Heidi Hubbard.

*Pray for our Genesis Kids Club this week, and for the kids who will hear the Gospel.