

The doctrine of eternity:  
the Person of Christ and the Place of heaven

# Deeper

ANCIENT TRUTHS THAT ANCHOR US



Center City Church

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, **he has put eternity into man's heart**, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

**Everyone cries out for eternity** - they just don't know it. The little boy who is choking back his tears because he has been bullied is crying out for eternity. The wife who is devastated by her husband's adultery is crying out for eternity...

*The couple who just discovered their car has  
been stolen is crying out for eternity.  
Somehow, someway, we all know in our hearts  
that this is not the way it is supposed to be.  
Somehow, someway, **we all long for a better  
world.***

*- Paul David Tripp*

## Outline

1. What we think (misconceptions)
2. What we know (scriptural realities)
3. What we dare to imagine (hope)

## 1. What we think (misconceptions)

- a. Heaven and Earth
- b. Bodies and Relationships
- c. Death and Hell



*“After reading ... which portrays Heaven as a real and exciting place, a woman wrote me, “I’ve been a Christian since I was five. I’m married to a youth pastor. When I was seven, a teacher at my Christian school told me that when I got to Heaven I wouldn’t know anyone or anything from Earth.”*



*... I was terrified of dying. I was never told any different by anyone.... It's been really hard for me to advance in my Christian walk because of this fear of Heaven and eternal life.”*

*Randy Alcorn*

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## 1. What we think (misconceptions)

- a. Heaven and Earth
- b. Bodies and Relationships
- c. Death and Hell

## 2. What we know (scriptural realities)

### a. Heaven and Earth

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

## 2. What we know (scriptural realities)

### a. Heaven and Earth

2 Peter 3:11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 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.**”

Rev 21:4 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.”<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

## 2. What we know (scriptural realities)

### a. Bodies and Relationship

Luke 20:34 And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, 36 for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.



Luke 20:37 But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls **the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. 38 Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.**”

*“SOME day you will read in the papers that D. L. Moody, of East Northfield, is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! **At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now.** I shall have gone up higher, that is all; gone out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal, a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint, a body like unto His own glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. **That which is born of the Spirit will live forever.**”*

*From the Meaning of Marriage*

*“Within this Christian vision for marriage, here's what it means to fall in love. It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of the person God is creating, and to say, "I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be part of that...”*

*I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, 'I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!'"...*

*Each spouse should see the great thing that Jesus is doing in the life of their mate through the Word, the gospel. Each spouse then should give him- or herself to be a vehicle for that work and envision the day that you will stand together before God, seeing each other presented in spotless beauty and glory.” - Tim Keller*

## 2. What we know (scriptural realities)

### a. Bodies and Relationship

Luke 24: 36 While they were describing these events, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 37 But they were startled and frightened, thinking they had seen a spirit. 38 “Why are you troubled,” Jesus asked, “and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

Luke 24:39 Look at My hands and My feet. It is I  
Myself. Touch Me and see—for a spirit does not  
have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” 40 And  
when He had said this, He showed them His  
hands and feet.



Luke 24:41 While they were still in disbelief because of their joy and amazement, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 So they gave Him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and **He took it and ate it in front of them.**

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now,  
and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we  
know that when he appears **we shall be like him,**  
because we shall see him as he is.

Phil 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

## 2. What we know (scriptural realities)

### a. Death and Hell

Matthew 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into **the eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.

Revelation 20:10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

“If you take this teaching out of your Bible, the gospel simply loses its power. If there is no final judgment of and punishment for sin, then the law was not necessary and the cross of Jesus Christ is not needed. If there is no final judgment and punishment for evil, sin is not so sinful after all and God is not as holy as he declared himself to be. Without the final judgment of and punishment...

for sin, there is no need for Jesus to live a perfectly righteous life and take our punishment on himself. If there is no final judgment, you can sin without consequence and you have no need for forgiving grace. If you deny the final judgment and the final place of eternal punishment, you are left with a Christianity that has no gospel in it. You are left with empty religion, devoid of meaning and hope.” - Tripp



## Outline

1. What we think (misconceptions)
2. What we know (scriptural realities)
3. What we dare to imagine (hope)

John 14:1 “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.

John 14:4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.