

Session 1: What is Heaven?

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

We were made for Eternity

We were made to live this life with our _____ on the _____ of heaven.

God has set _____ in all of our hearts (Eccl 3:11); we were made to live forever!

The records of the earliest catacombs reveal a deep _____ about heaven.

Let us greet the day which assigns each of us to his own home, which snatches us from this place and sets us free from the snares of the world, and restores us to paradise and the kingdom. Anyone who has been in foreign lands longs to return to his own native land...we regard paradise as our native land.

- Cyprian, Third Century Church Father

Do we think about Heaven?

We all know that we are going to die, yet spend very little time thinking about it. Why?

“Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath.” (Psalm 39:4–5).

Older generations practiced *memento mori*, “remembering _____.”

How much _____ do you think we spend thinking about heaven compared to earlier generations of Christian believers? Why do you say that?

Wrong ideas about Heaven

Our ideas about heaven are often shaped more by the _____ than our Bibles.

What are some popular visions of heaven?

We don’t desire heaven as the Bible encourages us to because we don’t have the Bible’s view of heaven. We don’t desire to eat gravel, because God didn’t make us for it. We don’t desire the heaven our imagination because God didn’t make us for it!

Read John 8:44 and Revelation 13:1–6.

Why would the devil work so hard to make us believe _____ about Heaven?

Correcting our Vision of Heaven

Read the following verses and write down what they tell you about the characteristics of Heaven. In what ways is heaven described as a place? Is heaven described as being different from other places? How?

Exodus 15:13

Luke 2:13–14

John 14:1–4

1 Thessalonians 4:15–17

Hebrews 4:14

Hebrews 9:24

Hebrews 11:13–16

Revelation 3:11–13

We were made for a _____ and a _____. _____ is that person and _____ is that place.

Setting our Minds on Heaven

Colossians 3:1–3 commands us to “set our _____ on heaven.”

Notice as you glance down through the rest of chapters 3 and 4 that this “heavenly-mindedness” does not leave you of “no earthly good.”

Hebrews 11:16 calls us to “_____” heaven as “the better country.”

But we can’t set our minds on or long for what we don’t know anything about! That’s what this series of studies is meant to help us with!

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