

MSC – Summer Connect Group Guide

Series: **YOU ASKED FOR IT**

Message: **Part 8 - HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH?**

August 12, 2018



Connect

SUMMER 2018 - *What is one thing that you'd still like to do before Summer ends?

Sunday Message Feedback

*Sunday's Speaker: Shawn Vandop

1. What is one way that your belief or understanding of Heaven has changed over the years?

2. **MESSAGE FEEDBACK:** *You Asked For It*

Share your initial feedback and questions from Sunday's Message on Heaven – [YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE](#)

3. **Myths & Misunderstandings about Heaven:**

What are a few myths or misunderstandings about Heaven that Shawn highlighted, or that you notice in culture/media and personal beliefs that people have?

Examples:

- a. We live on clouds & play harps.
- b. We become Angels.
- c. It's an eternal Musical.
- d. A cosmic party where we just do the fun things we enjoy doing with friends (e.g. golf)
- e. We have to earn/deserve it? *So, how good is good enough?*
- f. Everyone goes to Heaven
- g. Heaven can wait, it's not a big deal

4. **Some Descriptions of Heaven:** Read Together.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Genesis 1:1 | Job 19:25-27 | Isaiah 65:17 | Daniel 12:1-3 |
| Psalms 73:23-25 | Matthew 25:26 | Luke 12:33-34 & 23:43 | John 3:16 & 14:2, 6 |
| Romans 8:18-23 | 2 Corinthians 2:9; 5:1-10; 12:1-4 | Philippians 1:20-23 | |
| Hebrews 11:16 & 13:14 | 2 Peter 3:8-13 | Revelation 21:1-5, 22-27 & 22:1-5 | |

*"Heaven" in the Bible can refer to 3 things/places: a. the Atmosphere b. Outer Space c. God's Heaven/City

*Metaphors for Heaven in Scripture: *like a Bride *a City

*The word "Heaven" is found 276 times in the New Testament alone! Heaven & Hell are not specifically mentioned together in the same verses in Scripture, but Heaven & Earth are mentioned in the same verses over 200 times. Heaven & Earth were made together and they belong together, and God will ultimately reconcile Heaven & Earth.

- a. What do we learn about Heaven from these Scriptures?
- b. How do we get to Heaven or have the Assurance of Heaven?
- c. What are 1-2 questions that you still have or struggle with regarding Heaven?

5. HEAVEN is worth preparing for, hoping for, waiting for, and sharing with others!

God will have unbroken and unhindered fellowship with His people. They will complete clarity and intimacy. Enduring the Curse will be over! Jesus is the focus! He is the Light of Heaven.

There is no time limit in Heaven (eternal). The best of life on Earth is just a taste of the feast in Heaven.

“The most tragic strain in human existence lies in the fact that the pleasure which we find in the things of this life, however good that pleasure may be in itself, is always taken away from us. The things for which men strive hardly ever turn out to be as satisfying as they expected, and in the rare cases in which they do, sooner or later they are snatched away.... For the Christians, all those partial, broken and fleeting perfections which he glimpses in the world around him, which wither in his grasp and he snatches away from him even while the wither, are found again, perfect, complete and lasting in the absolute beauty of God.”

“The best of life on Earth is a glimpse of Heaven; the worst of life is a glimpse of Hell. For Christians, this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven.”

“For the Christian, death is not the end of adventure but a doorway from a world where dreams and adventures shrink, to a world where dreams and adventures forever expand.”

“Nothing is more often misdiagnosed than our homesickness for Heaven. We think that what we want is sex, drugs, alcohol, a new job, a raise, a doctorate, a spouse, a large-screen television, a new car, a cabin in the woods, a condo in Hawaii. What we really want is the person we were made for, Jesus, and the place we were made for, Heaven. Nothing less can satisfy us.” – Randy Alcorn, Heaven.

(Quotes from the book: <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/86257>)

“In the truest sense, Christian pilgrims have the best of both worlds. We have joy whenever this world reminds us of the next, and we take solace whenever it does not.”

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” – C.S. Lewis (Quotes: <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/174187>)

a. How can we consider, enjoy and apply the truth and reality of Heaven in our lives more?

b. Do you have the Hope of Heaven? How can we share this Hope (in Christ) more?

Application & Prayer

RESOURCES on Heaven: Books available on Amazon.ca or Christianbook.com

Heaven. By Randy Alcorn (Quotes from the book: <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/86257>)

The Heaven Answer Book. Billy Graham

Answers to Your Questions About Heaven. David Jeremiah

All Things New. John Eldredge

The Heaven Paper. <http://mysouthland.com/Resources/Theology/The%20Heaven%20Paper.pdf>

Heaven in the Old Testament.

www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/is-there-an-expectation-of-eternal-life-in-the-old-testament.html

www.openbible.info/topics/heaven www.gotquestions.org/search.php?zoom_query=heaven

***If you have questions or would like further resources please feel free to contact Pastor Shawn or Pastor Eryn.**

PRAY: In response to this topic and discussion how can we pray for you personally? Pray for one another.

SUMMER CONNECT GROUP

Next Wednesday is the last session. Life Groups begin mid-September.