

Good Question Series

Everyone wonders about heaven, hell, and the afterlife. What happens when this life ends? Over the next few weeks we will examine some often-asked questions as well as dismantle some wild ideas that are not biblically sound.

Good Question 03: “Do followers of Jesus have to go to purgatory before they go to heaven?”

- 1. What is purgatory?** Purgatory is primarily associated with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. According to official teaching, Purgatory is for purification after death in people who ultimately are going to heaven, but who aren't yet sufficiently purified to enter God's presence. If that is true, Jesus forgives me, but apparently something remains. There is still a balance on the account. So, the question isn't simply: “Is there a place called purgatory?” The deeper question is: “Did Jesus completely pay for my sins or didn't He?” That's the issue.
- 2. Scripture says Christ-followers are already qualified for heaven (Colossian 1:9-14).** In Colossians 1 Paul is writing to Christ-followers. In verses 9–11 he talks about things that are still in progress. We are learning, growing, bearing fruit, becoming more like Jesus. But in v12 Paul changes from what God is doing in us to what God has already done for us – God has “qualified” us through faith in Christ. My spiritual growth isn't finished, but my standing before God is settled. It doesn't depend on my behavior; it depends upon Jesus.
- 3. Jesus paid the entire debt (Colossians 2:13–14).** Paul states that my sin debt was paid in full. Our sins created a debt before God that we could never pay. Paul takes that legal picture and says that the record standing against us was canceled at Christ's cross. Jesus took it. Jesus paid it. Jesus satisfied it.

Good Question 04: “What is eternity like?”

- 1. God will make a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-4).** Our eternal home is not an escape from creation. John sees the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven. God will dwell with His people, just as He intended from the beginning. Eternity is real, physical, and lived in the presence of God.
- 2. We will have real, resurrected bodies (1 Corinthians 15:20).** Jesus is the “first fruits” of the resurrection. After His resurrection, Jesus could be seen, touched, and even ate with His disciples. His resurrected body gives us a picture of what resurrection means for us. Our bodies will no longer be subject to aging, decay, pain, or death.
- 3. The old order will pass away (Revelation 21:4).** Death, mourning, crying, and pain are all part of a world broken by sin. They will be GONE! We will worship and serve God without sin, frustration, weakness, or the effects of the curse.
- 4. Creation itself will be made new (Romans 8:19-21).** Sin didn't only affect humanity. Creation was subjected to frustration and decay because of the Fall. Paul says creation itself is waiting to be liberated. Imagine the beauty we see now—sunsets, mountains, oceans, animals—made new and experienced exactly as God intended.

For the Road: We aren't waiting to escape creation. We're waiting to experience it as intended: real, physical, touchable, bodily...WITH HIM!

Family Night – Read Revelation 21:1-5

- Elementary School** – Ask, “What things does God promise will be gone in v.4? What does God say He is making new in v.5? What is something in God's creation you would be excited to experience when everything is made new?”
- Middle/High School** – Ask, “How is the picture in Revelation 21 different from the way movies, cartoons, or culture portray heaven? What does ‘the old order of things has passed away’ mean? If the beauty we experience now exists in a creation affected by sin, what does that make you anticipate about creation made new?”

Prayer: “Lod, thank You for making all things new. Help us live with hope as we wait to be forever with You. Amen.”

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: This Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30.

Gravity: Gravity today in both services.

Today's Songs

I BelievePhil Wickham

Holy Spirit.....Francesca Battistelli

God Of Wonders.....Passion

Work Day

We need 20 men on Saturday, October 10 to help put together shelves and move into the new shelter in the back. Let Pastor Mike or Tyler know if you can help.

Boo Bash

Our annual fall celebration is October 25th. Pancake Supper, Trunk or Treat, Costume Contest, and Fun and Games. Everyone is invited!

Order a T-Shirt

So many of you liked the T-shirt worn by the staff last Baptism Sunday that we have made them available for you to order online. Go to gracestatesboro.com and click on the “Events” page.

KidsJam Glow Party

This Wednesday, September 23 from 6-7:30pm.