

Heaven & Hell

Small Group Series & Study Guide

Small Group Guide: Heaven & Hell, Week 7

Key Takeaways:

1. **Heaven is not our final destination:** the New Jerusalem on the new earth is where we'll spend eternity.
2. **We will have glorified, immortal bodies:** just like Jesus' resurrected body.
3. **Our role in eternity is active, not passive:** we will reign and rule with Christ forever.
4. **Mortal believers will continue to exist** on the new earth, sustained by the Tree of Life.
5. **Our faithfulness now matters for eternity:** rewards and responsibilities are based on earthly obedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Before this sermon, what was your understanding of heaven and eternity?** How has this teaching changed or expanded your perspective?

2. **Pastor Allen described three distinct groups on the new earth.** Why do you think God would structure eternity this way? What does this reveal about God's character and purposes?
3. **Read Revelation 21:23-26.** What stands out to you about the nations bringing their glory into the New Jerusalem? What might this look like practically?
4. **Discuss the significance of the Tree of Life appearing in both Genesis and Revelation.** What does this "bookend" tell us about God's redemptive plan?
5. **Pastor Allen emphasized that "what we rule and reign over is determined by what we do on this earth."** How does this truth challenge or motivate you?
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10.** How do these passages support the idea that our eternal rewards will differ based on our earthly faithfulness?
7. **Heaven won't be "socialistic" - we won't all have the same rewards.** How do you feel about this? Does it seem fair? Why or why not?
8. **What specific areas of your life would change if you truly lived with an eternal perspective?** (Consider: time management, finances, relationships, career choices, entertainment).

Practical Application:

1. **Eternal Investment Audit:** list your top 5 time commitments and top 5 financial expenses, and ask yourself: "Will this matter in 1,000 years?"

2. **Service Commitment:** Identify one way you can serve in God's kingdom this month.

Closing Prayer:

1. **Thank God** for the incredible future He has prepared for us.
 2. **Ask for grace** to live with eternal perspective in daily decisions.
 3. **Pray for faithfulness** in the opportunities God gives us now.
 4. **Request wisdom** to invest in what truly matters.
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5-Day Devotion: Heaven is Real and Physical

Day 1: Our Eternal Home Awaits

Reading: Revelation 21:1-4, John 14:1-3

Devotional: Jesus promised to prepare a place for us—the New Jerusalem, a city of unimaginable beauty where God's presence illuminates everything. This is not wishful thinking but certain hope. When life's trials overwhelm you, remember you are not home yet. You are a traveler passing through this world, destined for something far greater.

The mansion Jesus is preparing for you is real, eternal, and waiting. This truth should transform how you view your current circumstances. The temporary struggles you face pale in comparison to the eternal glory awaiting you. Let this hope anchor your soul today. Your citizenship is in heaven, and your true home is being prepared by the Master Builder Himself.

Day 2: Reigning with Christ Forever

Reading: Revelation 20:4-6, 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Devotional: Scripture reveals an astonishing truth: believers will not merely inhabit heaven but will reign with Christ throughout eternity. This is not passive existence but active participation in God's eternal kingdom. During the millennium and beyond, you will have authority and purpose. However, what you rule over is determined by your faithfulness now.

Your current obedience, service, and devotion are not meaningless religious activities—they are investments in your eternal position. Are you living with this perspective? The choices you make today echo into eternity. Your faithfulness in small things now prepares you for greater responsibilities then. Live today as someone preparing to reign tomorrow.

Day 3: Setting Our Minds on Things Above

Reading: Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 6:19-21

Devotional: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. An eternal perspective transforms everything. When you truly grasp that this world is temporary and heaven is forever, your priorities shift dramatically. The pursuit of earthly success, possessions, and recognition loses its grip. Instead, you invest in what lasts—relationships, character, service, and spiritual growth. This is not about escaping responsibility on earth but about fulfilling it with heaven in mind.

Ask yourself: Am I storing up treasures in heaven or building monuments on sinking sand? Your brief time on earth is the only opportunity you have to impact your eternal reality. Choose wisely. Think eternally. Live purposefully.

Day 4: The Tree of Life and Eternal Provision

Reading: Revelation 22:1-5, Genesis 3:22-24

Devotional: What Adam and Eve lost through sin, Christ has restored through redemption. The tree of life, once forbidden, will be freely accessible in the new earth. God's provision is complete and eternal. Just as the tree yields fruit monthly and its leaves bring healing, God's sustaining grace never runs dry.

In eternity, there will be no curse, no sickness, no death—only abundant life in God's presence. This promise should fill you with hope during difficult seasons. The God who will provide perfectly in eternity is the same God caring for you today. Trust His provision now, knowing His ultimate plan includes perfect restoration. You serve a God who finishes what He starts.

Day 5: Living Now for Eternal Rewards

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Devotional: Heaven is not a socialist utopia where everyone receives identical rewards. Scripture clearly teaches that believers will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, where our works will be evaluated and rewarded accordingly. Some will have great treasures and authority; others will have less. This is not about salvation—that is secured by grace through faith—but about rewards based on faithfulness.

What you do with your time, talents, and treasures today determines your eternal station. Are you building with gold, silver, and precious stones, or with wood, hay, and stubble? Your daily choices matter eternally. Serve faithfully. Give generously. Love sacrificially. Live with the understanding that this brief earthly life is your only opportunity to invest in eternal rewards.