

## **“Heaven”**

### **XII. “What Will We Do in Heaven?”**

**Recap important points:**

**-There are two stages of heaven: Intermediate and Eternal Heaven (New Heaven and New Earth)**

**-When mankind fell, creation fell. Both are under the curse of death.**

**Therefore, both were redeemed through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.**

**-Jesus’ physical resurrection is the model for our physical resurrection.**

**-This present Earth will not be annihilated, rather restored, resurrected, redeemed, transformed from this *prototype* to the final New Earth.**

**-We will rule with Jesus, under His authority, on the New Earth.**

**-God’s original plan had no “oops” in it. Redemption was part of His original plan, and God’s original plan will be realized (Revelation 21:1).**

**-When we (the Church, the Bride of Christ) are presented to him, we will be wearing our acts of service, ministry and righteousness, as our Fine Linen (Revelation 19:8).**

**-We will rule with Christ on the New Earth. God’s Kingdom continues to expand, and we will be given dominion over it.**

**-The Capital City of the New Earth, is the New Jerusalem. It is a real city, with real dimensions and features.**

**-We will maintain our uniqueness in heaven. We will be human, and a perfect (not infinite, but perfect) version of ourselves now.**

**-We will enjoy relationships both ones from the past and new ones, for an eternity!**

**-Animals are included in the restoration of the New Earth, and we will enjoy them, along with all of God’s creation, forever!**

**THIS WEEK, we end our study by focusing on the question, “What Will We Do in Heaven?” by addressing 4 main questions:**

- 1. Will Heaven ever be boring?**
- 2. Will there be arts, entertainment, and sports?**
- 3. Will our dreams be fulfilled and missed opportunities regained?**
- 4. Will we design crafts, technology, and new modes of travel?**

We’ve certainly covered a lot of material in our study on Heaven. You’ve been challenged to broaden your thinking as it pertains to this wonderful place God has prepared for us. We’ve identified barriers that have kept us in the dark about the realities of Heaven: Christoplatonism, Naturalism, bad theology, ignorance of Scripture,

Hollywood, family tradition, etc. We must remember that Satan continues to “blaspheme God, and slander his name and his dwelling place” (**Revelation 13:6**). Therefore, my prayer is, by this point, you have initiated being a student of the Word of God, that you have taken initiative to learn *more* about Heaven, and that you will begin to start viewing this Earth, and life on this Earth as a *preparation* for your eternal life on the New Earth!

This section of the study will attempt to answer some “last minute” questions, and time will be built in tonight for Q&A and discussion. Let’s get started!

## Will Heaven Ever Be Boring?

In short, no. Heaven will not be boring because God is not boring. Where God is, there is joy, love, peace, adventure, excitement, and hope (**Psalms 16:11** says, “In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”). Where God is NOT, there are none of those things. Heaven won’t be boring; Hell will! Yet Satan, in his attempt to blaspheme God’s place, has convinced many *Christians* that Heaven will be a boring existence of never-ending harp playing and polishing streets of gold.

Some may ask, “Is being *good* all the time ever going to get boring?” Those who ask this are asking with a sin-poisoned mind. The assumption is that *sin* is *exciting* and that you’ve got to be bad every now and then in order to have *fun*. Satan used that basic strategy with Adam and Eve. If Satan can convince us that living *apart* from the righteousness of Jesus can be rewarding in *any* way, then we can easily succumb to our sin nature. Hence, we can be tempted to think Heaven is boring. IT IS NOT!!

The reason people who assume Heaven is boring is because, perhaps, their Christian lives are boring. That’s not God’s fault; it’s theirs! God is the *giver* of all good things, including humor, laughter, joy, excitement, adventure, etc.

With the understanding that Heaven will NOT be boring, think about how this carries over into our eternal life of *recreation, work, hobbies, adventure, worship, fellowship* and so forth! If you are a golfer, and you golf in Heaven, will you score a “hole-in-one” on every hole? Probably not. *That* would be boring; there would be no challenge. I believe part of the excitement of Heaven is that we have an eternity to hone our skills in every area of our life, and do so without the influence of evil or sin. Work is honorable and brings us pleasure (see week 9 notes). Because work is not a result of the Curse, it will carry over with us to the New Earth. Only in Heaven, our work will be accomplished without becoming toilsome and unfulfilling.

If our culture didn’t continue to advance, Heaven would be boring. But our culture(s) *will* advance! We are created in God’s image and likeness. He is the master artist, Creator. We are artists and creators as well. Our ability to think, design, build,

share ideas, learn and advance will not cease. Sin didn't *end* these God-given abilities, it simply *relocated* them.

## Will There Be Arts, Entertainment, and Sports?

Yes. These have played a major role in human history. Why wouldn't they carry over? Singing, playing instruments, and dancing play a major role in both OT and NT worship:

-**Psalm 104:33** "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."

-**Revelation 8:7-13; 15:2** mentions instruments in heaven (trumpets and *harps!*)

-**I Chronicles 25:1-8** describes 288 people singing and playing a variety of instruments in the Temple.

-**Psalm 150** mentions trumpets, harps, lyres, tambourines, strings, flutes, and cymbals.

-**Isaiah 38:20** mentions singing and playing stringed instruments unto the Lord.

-**Mark 14:26** mentions that Jesus sang with his disciples.

-**Ephesians 5:19** contains instructions from Paul to sing to the Lord.

-**James 5:13** says that those who are thankful to God should sing to Him!

The Bible is clear that we will sing and enjoy song in Heaven. It's also clear that we will dance in Heaven. For some of us (ME!!!) dancing is not your forte. But I believe dancing in heaven goes far beyond dance moves. I believe dancing in heaven will incorporate all physical responses to music: a tapping foot, a swaying motion, and yes, even full on dancing!! Remember, God gave us music and dance. Satan only perverted them. God will *restore* them!!

We should not limit our thought of "the arts" to just music and dance. I believe in Heaven we will tell stories, write books, paint, sculpt, and so much more. We are artists ONLY because God, our Creator, is the Master Artist. Just as He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**), so will be for us. Our God-given nature will not change. Only our sin nature will be destroyed, and we will be resurrected, renewed and restored beings. Your interests on Earth will be your interests in Heaven, only you will pursue your interests with complete joy, without the influence of sin, and you'll have an eternity for your pursuits!

In an effort to not limit our thinking when it comes to activity in Heaven, many wonder if there will be sports? YES! Why not? Sports bring us joy. Competition is healthy and helps build relationships. Playing sports is healthy and brings us joy. Observing sports is fun and brings us *laughter* and (if you are a Gator fan, *sorrow!* Sorry, I had to put that in there!!!) In heaven we will enjoy sports from every angle, and will do so without the influence of ego, pride, and selfishness. Scripture compares the Christian life to athletic competitions (**I Corinthians 9:24,27; II Timothy 2:5**). Because sports aren't inherently bad, we have every reason to believe we will enjoy sports in heaven. Who knows? Perhaps we'll enjoy games we've not yet invented here on Earth! After all, we'll continue to advance in ALL areas.

## Will Our Dreams Be Fulfilled and Missed Opportunities Regained?

YES! But let's look *why*...

We've probably all heard something along this, "You only go around once on this earth, so grab all the gusto you can!" In other words, *this* present life is it! Once we die and "go to Heaven" we trade a fun and exciting life for an eternal existence of boredom. We've already established that won't be the case! We need to remember in the phrase "eternal life" the word *life* exists!!! Life means an existence of work, play, rest and relationships. An eternal life means we'll enjoy those things forever!

I believe the New Earth will offer us opportunities we never had on this earth. I also believe that our dreams will be fulfilled. The longing in our heart to do a particular thing on this earth may be hindered by our physical ability or financial ability. But in Heaven, we will be afforded the opportunity to have our dreams fulfilled. Our dreams will not be motivated by selfish ambition, but for the glory of God, and our ability to fulfill those dreams will be enabled *by* God!! **Romans 8:18** says that "our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Included in the opportunities that we will be afforded in Heaven, we must include *relationships* that we will have the opportunity to fulfill that we were not afforded on Earth. Perhaps you have lost a baby/child, and never had the opportunity to know him/her. In Heaven, you will! Perhaps you never got to meet your grandparents or your great grandparents. In Heaven, if they were Christ-followers, you will! Perhaps your best friend died. In Heaven, you will gain opportunities with that friend you lost on Earth.

Alcorn writes, "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."

## Will We Design Crafts, Technology, and New Modes of Travel?

Faith and science, or technology, are not naturally at odds. If you believe the Bible is true, and that God is the initiator of all good things, including life and technology, you won't have a hard time accepting that on the New Earth, we will continue to advance human ingenuity. Again, as stated in the past, we will do this without the influence of sin and evil.

God gives the skills we enjoy. He enables craftsmanship (**Exodus 31:1-6**). A reading of **Exodus 25-40** will show you that God tells His people in exquisite detail how to sew clothing, what colors to use, how to build furniture for the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle, what stones to put on the high priest's breastplate, and so forth. It wasn't an accident that Jesus was born into a carpenter's family. Jesus, God in the

flesh, was a Master Craftsman. If we believe we are made in His image and likeness, we have no problem believing we (humanity) will continue to be craftsman on the New Earth, engaged in designing and building. Engaged in advancing culture!!

We're told that we will work and serve in Heaven. So will we engage in business? Yes, but not necessarily for the reasons we do on this earth. Instead of operating under the stress of earning an income, we will engage in business for the sheer purpose of serving one another and fulfilling *our* purpose, as we live out our God-given abilities and desires.

As far as travel is concerned: will we travel? Yes. How? I don't know. Could we appear and disappear in locations, as the resurrected Jesus did. Sure. It's unclear in Scripture whether Jesus was able to do this because of His deity or because of being in a resurrected body. There are streets in Heaven, so does that indicate a vehicle of some sort will be employed? Sure. Why not? Will we walk everywhere we go? Sure. Why not? The point is, as we answer some specific questions, it may be easier to apply the "why not?" then anything else.

We must keep in mind several principles. First, anything that is not a result of the Curse can certainly be carried over onto the New Earth, being made perfect and whole, without the influence of sin and evil. Second, Heaven is about gaining and not losing. Third, our God's ability to accomplish anything and do everything is not limited to our finite, sin-corrupted minds. Before we "discount" anything that will be, or take place, in Heaven, we must humble ourselves and remember our God is sovereign.

I would like to end this study with a quote from Mark Buchanan in his book, *Things Unseen*:

Why won't we be bored in heaven? Because it's the one place where both impulses – to go beyond, to go home – are perfectly joined and totally satisfied. It's the one place where we're constantly discovering – where everything is always fresh and the possessing of a thing is as good as the pursuing of it – and yet where we are fully at home – where everything is as it ought to be and where we find, undiminished, that mysterious something we never found down here...And this lifelong melancholy that hangs on us, this wishing we were someone else somewhere else, vanishes too. Our craving to go beyond is always and fully realized. Our yearning for home is once and for all fulfilled. The *ahh!* of deep satisfaction and the *ahh!* of delighted surprise meet, and they kiss.

I pray this study has blessed you, increased your understanding of this wonderful place called *Heaven*, and most all, that I will see you there!