

Church in the Park: God's Beautiful Eternal church
Week's Reading: OPEN
Discussion Guide: November 20, 2022

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

How were you committed to the work of the Lord this past week?
How did knowing your work was "not in vain" spur you on?

OPEN:

- When you think of heaven what do you think of?
 - o What do you imagine of heaven?

This week, we are going to read a variety of texts in relation to the subject of heaven. We simply want to get a grasp of what heaven means for us in the future, and what it means for us today.

READ and ASK: Genesis 1:26-2:3; Matthew 8:11; John 11:25-26; John 14:1-7; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 11:8-16; Hebrews 4:9-11; Revelation 21:1-8

- Which one of these texts stands out to you most? Why?
- How do these texts describe heaven?
 - o Based on the sermon and these texts, is there any new insight you have gained about heaven?
- How does the future promise of heaven impact how we live now?
- Besides being with God and Jesus (and that is what matters most), what do you think the best part of heaven is going to be for you?

APPLY:

"Christianity is a religion of hope, which focuses on the resurrection of Jesus as the ground for believing and trusting in a God who is able to triumph over death, and give hope to all those who suffer and die." - Alister McGrath (See 1 Corinthians 15)

In light of this hope, Jabe Nicholson gives us a helpful acronym to remind us that our hope determines our lifestyle.

H- Hold lightly to the things of this world.

- How does focusing on our eternal hope help us to loosen our grip on things of this world?
- How do you need loosen your group on things of this world?

O- Own up to the hardness of your heart.

- Recognizing our hardness of heart opens us up to the truths of God's word.
- How do you need to be more receptive to God's word in your life? (See Matthew 13:1-23).

P- Passionately seek out the lost.

- How does having an eternal perspective inspire us to seek out the lost?
- In what way can you passionately seek out others who haven't surrendered to Jesus?

E- Encourage the people of God daily.

"You can never do a good thing too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late." - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

- In what way can you truly encourage the people of God daily? (*not to be confused with flattery, true Christian encouragement spurs each other on in the faith and toward our eternal reward*).
- NEXT STEP: Of the four action steps above, which one needs your first attention this week?

Memory Work:

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, - Philippians 3:20

Next Week's Reading:

1 Corinthians 16:1-24