

Message Notes

Why Should We Think About Heaven?

Heaven Series #2

1 Peter 1:3-12

A Prayer of Faith, expressing the desire of a desperate heart. . . .

Lord Jesus, I come to you by faith. I realize that because of my sin, I am spiritually dead, unclean, blind, in bondage and lost. I am more sinful and separated from God than I ever before imagined. But I believe that your death on the cross demonstrates your compassion. I am more loved by you than I ever dared hope. Thank you for living the life that I should be living and dying the death that I deserve. By faith, I turn away from myself and my sin toward you. By faith, I receive what I really need, forgiveness of my sins and new life in you. Heal and change my life. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning, we would love to hear about it. We would like to help you understand what it means to live a new life in Jesus Christ. Please indicate your commitment of faith on our Welcome Tab attached to the worship folder or contact one of our Ministry Staff listed on the back of Life @ Grace.

grace
San Luis Obispo

Message Outline

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Heaven Series #2

1 Peter 1:3-12 April 3, 2005

“All men seek happiness. This is without exception.” – Blaise Pascal

- I. Why **don't** we think more about heaven?
 - A. Misconceptions about heaven
 - B. Misplaced priorities
 - C. Misunderstanding (not wanting to be “too heavenly-minded”)
- II. Why **should** we think more about heaven?
 - A. We would be in good company.
 - B. A God-given sense of the hereafter.
 - C. Eternity is a long time.
 - D. We all die.
 - E. Thinking about heaven increases our hope and faith.
- III. How does thinking about heaven build hope and faith?
 - A. God has caused us to be born again. (1 Peter 1:3-5)
 1. To a living hope
 2. Into an inheritance
 - a. Imperishable
 - b. undefiled
 - c. Unfading
 - d. Reserved in heaven
 - B. We are protected by God's power through faith.
 1. Present security
 2. Securing a future salvation
- IV. The ultimate reason to think about Heaven:
We will be with Jesus...forever. (Psalm 16:11)

“In Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.” – Psalm 16:1

Growth Group Discussion Questions

Why Should We Think About Heaven?

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1 Peter 1:3-12

1. Take a few minutes and list your perceptions of what Heaven will be like. Divide the list of your thoughts into two columns: those that have a biblical basis, and those based on other teaching, sources, or cultural/artistic depictions.
2. Why do we not give much thought to heaven and our future hope?
3. 1 Peter 1:3 tells us that we have been “born again to a living hope.” What are the present implications of that living hope (i.e. to our daily lives)? What are its future implications?
4. In verse 4 Peter describes an inheritance. Discuss the words Peter uses to describe the believer’s inheritance – imperishable, undefiled, unfading, and reserved. How does the knowledge of this future inheritance help the believer now?
5. In verse 5 there is God’s power at work and our active faith. God protects us through His power, but our faith is an active component. What is the relationship between the two?
6. The recipients of Peter’s letter were enduring trials (described as a fiery ordeal in 4:12). Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. How does Peter’s talk of a future inheritance help them in light of their current difficult circumstances?
7. What can we learn about God’s redemptive plan and our future hope in verses 10-12 of 1 Peter 1? How should that encourage us?
8. The Apostle Paul weighs in on the subject of the believer’s inheritance. Discuss Ephesians 1:13-14 (see also 2 Corinthians 5:5-10). How does the Holy Spirit as a “down-payment” of our ultimate inheritance encourage and spur us on now?
9. We used Psalm 16 as our call to worship this week. If time permits, read verses 8-11. Commenting on verses 8 and 11 Alexander Maclaren wrote, “Life *here* may be God’s presence with us, to make us steadfast ... Life *hereafter* will be our presence with God, to make us glad.” How do verses 8-11 serve to strengthen our faith, increase our hope and encourage us?
10. Though there are other reasons for thinking about Heaven, based on your discussion of 1 Peter 1:3-12 (as well as Eph. 1:13-14 and Psalm 16), why should we think about our future hope (i.e. Heaven)?