

Message Notes

Heaven & the Rest of Your Life
Heaven Series, part 4 of 4
I Corinthians 15:50-58
April 17, 2005

Message Outline

Heaven & the Rest of Your Life
Heaven Series, part 4 of 4
I Corinthians 15:50-58
April 17, 2005

*Heaven is a big part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
A deepening, Biblical understanding of heaven will make us . . .*

I. Free FROM the World

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, **BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE,** always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. – I John 2:16-17

- A. Free from the world's values and idols.
- B. Free from the world's pleasures.
- C. Free from the world's expectations.
- D. Free from the world's disappointments.
- E. Free from the world's fears.

II. Free FOR the World

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, **ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT YOUR TOIL IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD.** – I Corinthians 15:58*

- A. Free to enjoy the world.
- B. Free to engage in the world.
- C. Free serve the world.
- D. Free to sacrifice for the world.
- E. Free to speak Good News to the world.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. – 2 Corinthians 5:19

Growth Group Understanding Questions

Heaven & the Rest of Your Life

Heaven Series, part 4 of 4

I Corinthians 15:50-58

April 17, 2005

1. Read I Corinthians 15:50-58. Where does the turn from doctrine to application happen? What is strange and odd about the challenge given? What is the “therefore” grounded upon?
2. Read I John 2:15-17. What does “the world” here mean? The physical world or the world’s system of values, expectations and pleasures?
3. In John 2, what is the lust of the flesh? The lust of the eyes? The boastful pride of life? How do we see this same system of values in our own culture and day? How can a deepening Biblical understanding of heaven free us FROM these things and give us a completely different foundation for living?
4. How does I Corinthians 15:58, pull us away from the world? How does it push us toward the world? According to 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, what is the work of the Lord? Can you think of other passages that pull us away from the world? Other passages that push us toward the world?
5. Looking at I Corinthians 15:58, what does it mean to be always “abounding” in the work of the Lord”? What is the promise attached?

Growth Group Application Questions

Heaven & the Rest of Your Life

Heaven Series, part 4 of 4

I Corinthians 15:50-58

April 17, 2005

1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our study/sermon this week?
2. How and where do we get a deepening, Biblical understanding of heaven?
3. In what ways does the world force its expectations on us and try to conform us to its mold? What forms does this take in media, education, and consumer capitalism?
4. Read I Timothy 4:4, 6:17, James 1:17. Is it OK for us to enjoy the world and its pleasures? Why or why not? How does a deepening Biblical view of heaven help us enjoy the world in proper perspective? What are things of this world we have the privilege to enjoy as gifts from God?
5. How does a deepening Biblical understanding of heaven encourage us to engage in culture, politics, art, music and ecology?
6. How does Jesus model freedom FROM the world for us? Can you think of some specific examples? How does Jesus model freedom FOR the world for us? Specific examples?