

H3

Session 24

Personal Eschatology

Heaven

Dispel a few misconceptions:

Heaven is a self-determined state.

(extension of your favorite pastime, green couches and 72 virgins, your planet where you get to be god)

Heaven is a disembodied existence. (impersonal, lost in the crowd, non-relational, non-intimate)

Totally strange, foreign, unknown.

A cloud, a robe, a harp, and some sheet-music.

Heaven is boring.

Heaven is a real, literal place where redeemed people inhabit a new heavens and a new earth in real physical bodies, in relationship to each other and in relationship to God. Our existence in heaven will bear much resemblance to our existence here – many things will be familiar – everything will be infinitely better!

Consider the fact that God is the one who created you with the capacity for enjoyment, for fun. Everything that brings us joy here on earth is merely a foreshadow of the joy that awaits us in heaven. God created you with the capacity for pleasure, and He says “at My right hand are pleasures forever more.”

Things to look forward to

- Eating (Genesis 2:16-17; Revelation 22:2; Luke 22:29-30)
- Walking Through Walls (John 20:24-26)
- Flying (Isaiah 40:31a; Revelation 21:16)
- Strength/Endurance (Isaiah 40:31b)
- Working (Revelation 22:3; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Genesis 2:15)
- New Bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-55)
- No Sickness (Revelation 22:2)
- No Pain (Revelation 21:4)
- No Sorrow (Revelation 21:4)
- No Diminishing Returns (Romans 8:19-23; Revelation 22:3)
- No “Blahs” (Psalm 84:10-11; Isaiah 55:1-3; Revelation 21:6-7)
- No More Sin (2 Peter 3:13; Romans 8:28-30)

There is one more thing to look forward to, without which heaven would not be heaven at all:
You can have all of things above, but if you do not have this last one, it is not heaven.

The enjoyment of God Himself.

When you see God, the moment you step out of time and into eternity, you will be exhilarated beyond your wildest dreams. It is impossible to conceive now how incredible heaven is going to be.

It will not be b/c you can fly or eat or work. And it will not be because you will never hurt, grieve, or sin.

It will be because your finite mind will be blown away by the incredibleness of something infinite in its greatness and its goodness – the uncloaked presence of God Himself. You will not be disappointed.



What happens when you die?

An intermediate state?

Disembodied spirits and the resurrection

“end of life” phenomena?

Resources:

***Human Nature in its Fourfold State* Thomas Boston**

***The End For Which God Created The World* Jonathan Edwards**

***Desiring God* John Piper**

***The Saints’ Everlasting Rest* Richard Baxter**

***The Glory of Heaven* John MacArthur**

