

The Best Things in Life are Timeless
TIMELESS (Part 1)
Pastor Bill Bowers
January 22, 2017

Bible Passages Today: Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Series Bottom Line: In a trendy world, the best things in life are timeless.

- What is Heaven like and why is this an important question?
- The problem: When Heaven is _____, our lives can be _____.

TWO COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HEAVEN

Misconception #1: Believers in Jesus will spend _____.

See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. Isaiah 65:17

As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before Me , so will your name and descendants endure. Isaiah 66:22

In keeping with His promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13

"We can say, 'Heaven will be our eternal home, or Earth will be our eternal home.' but we shouldn't say 'Heaven, not Earth, will be our eternal home,' because the Heaven in which we'll live will be centered on the New Earth."
Randy Alcorn (Heaven)

There are two words used for the word *new*:

Neos: Describes something _____.

Kainos: To restore something to its _____.

Jesus came to redeem God's creation back to its original intent. He is making all things Kainos!

MISCONCEPTION #2: What you do on this earth determines whether you go to Heaven, but once you're there it's the same for everybody.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive what is due them for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

See also Romans 14:10 and Matthew 12:36

- In light of this truth, _____.

This Week's Take Away:

Make one decision this week that reflects not the myths about Heaven, but which reflects the truth about Eternity with God. (It could be something in your marriage, something at work, something you do for another person).

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LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- Pastor Bill spoke to us about the timelessness of heaven this week. Why do you think heaven should be important to you today? What do you think about heaven? Do you think heaven exists (as a place or a principle) at the margins of your life?
- One misconception about heaven we learned this week was that believers in Jesus will spend eternity in Heaven. How do you feel about this? Have you thought believers would always spend eternity in heaven? What do you think now and what is the basis of your reasoning? How does this information change your thinking and/or the way you live?
- A second misconception was that what you do on this earth determines whether you go to heaven, but once you're there it's the same for everybody. Was this a misconception you had? How or why do you think this misconception can be detrimental for believers? What do you think about eternal rewards? Does this idea motivate you to live your life today differently? Why or why not?
- What do you think the greatest reward of your salvation is for you today? How are you experiencing your salvation's reward now, or is your salvation a "hope" you dream about in a future life? Explain your response in detail.
- What motivates you to live as you do today? Are you more concerned about punishment and/or reward? What is the alternative motivation (if any) to live a virtuous life if not for reward or fear of punishment?
- Pastor Bill challenged us at the end of his teaching to "make one decision this week that reflects not the myths about heaven, but which reflects the truth about eternity with God." Take the time now to write out or name aloud what you will do this week. Tell someone what you will do and follow-up with them when you do it.
- If you'd like to further your studies in this area of heaven and eternity, you might try out N.T. Wright's book *Surprised by Hope*. Pastor Bill also mentioned another resource from Randy Alcorn titled *Heaven*.

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