

“Joy In The Everyday: Heaven Can Wait”

Growth Group Guide

May 24, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

Based on the sermon, what might “Heaven Can Wait” mean? How could this give us joy everyday? What did you think of the title at first? Does it remind you of a certain movie?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer inviting the Spirit to lead your time.

There is no better life than the life of Jesus as our own! Read the verse and paragraph below. Afterward, pause in quietness to meditate on and say the small prayer in your hearts to Jesus.

Colossians 3:4a “Christ...is your life.”

“ ‘It’s not only true that my life is Christ’s, but my life is Christ.’ What an amazing truth! Christ is my life! And yours! Think of what it means in being obedient and loving, in being adequate, in being joyful. Again and again I find release and strength as I simply say, ‘Thank You, Father, that Christ is my life.’ ” (Myers, Ruth; Myers, Warren. *Thirty-One Days of Praise: Enjoying God Anew* (31 Days Series) (p. 102). Kindle.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. What sort of things have you seen put forward as “this is life?” Why do you think those specific things are pointed to as sources of life?
2. **Read Philippians 1:21 and 1 John 5:11-12.** What do Paul and John tell us is life? How is this significant vs. the answers in question 1?
3. The life John describes is eternal life. When you’ve heard eternal life, what have you pictured in your mind? How is that similar or different from the fact that Eternal Life is Jesus?
4. To “live is Christ” is to say everything that we are is in Jesus, because He is our life. Make a list of specific things that you are in Jesus right now, because He is your life. How does this give you joy?
5. Everything you listed in question 4 is what Jesus is to you. Paul says “to live is Christ, to die is gain.” Gain = more of something. How does an increase of what you listed in question 4, reframe your view of death? How is that different for the general fearful views of death?
6. **Read Philippians 1:22-24.** Paul is processing through one of two choices that will be made for him. He’s processing through which one he’d prefer and also which one is needed. Why do you think it’s important for Paul to think and pray through these options if it’s really not up to him to decide? How is what he finds a benefit?
7. Paul’s two options aren’t a choice between something good and something bad. His choice is between options that are better and best. Many times it is seen as bad to stay here and good to go to

heaven. Because Jesus is Paul’s life, the best is going to heaven, but better is staying here to do the work God has for him. How does this change your perspective on the days you have in this life?

8. **Read Philippians 1:25-26.** Paul’s remaining work was to help more people come to know Jesus and to help those who know Jesus to grow spiritually. This isn’t unique to Paul, it’s true for every Christian. What do you think about this also being your personal mission as well?
9. Paul was willing to postpone his trip to heaven so others might be built up and established in Jesus. **Read Romans 9:1-3.** What else was Paul willing for, so that others might come to know Jesus for the first time? What do you think about Paul’s willingness in both of these cases? How does that differ from our church culture today?
10. Paul wasn’t a superhuman spiritual elite. He was a regular person who allowed Jesus to be his life. If we are a Christian, Jesus is our life too, and He lives in us everyday, all day. How does this encourage you with new purpose and meaning in your life? How does this grow joy in you?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Knowing Jesus is our life enables us to wait on heaven because it will give us more opportunity to help others know Him as their life.** Look at question 4 again. What qualities do you have because you are in Jesus and He is your life? Do you find you it’s hard to experience them? Ruth Myers says about Christ being her life, “I find that praise is a tremendous aid in experiencing this truth. Praise stimulates my faith, helping me believe that something tremendous has taken place deep inside me—that God has infused me with the person and life of His son. As I praise the Lord for who His Son is—pure and holy, loving and powerful—I can go on to praise Him that this is what He is in me.” Try it this week! Each quality you want to experience and the fact that Christ is your life, praise Him that that is what He is IN you. You may find a new joy welling up IN you!

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

Aury Villa, our missions partner in the Dominican Republic, pastors Ministerio Sanando Almas Church (“Healing Souls Church” in English). It has a growing and influential ministry with families and children. Many of the children in the area come to events at the church just for them, and then the parents can be reached too. Pray for Pastor Villa and his church as they gear up for summer outreaches into their community. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring children, families, and those in need of a Savior to the church, and for hearts to be ready to be transformed by the Gospel. Pray for rich discipleship through this wonderful church and Pastor Villa. Pray for a blessing on his family as they serve and for God to provide for their needs “according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19 ESV)”

“according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.” (Eph. 3:16 ESV)

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