

- I. John Describes Eternity:
  - A. As heaven coming down to earth
    - 1. Different than how we typically think about it. Not us going to be with God, but God coming to be with us
    - 2. God's salvation project has never been rescue by evacuation. John describes a rescue by invasion.
  - B. As a restored Garden of Eden
    - 1. The details he records seem to be random / unimportant
    - 2. But they actually look to be making a parallel to Garden of Eden
      - a) Most obvious, Genesis 1 talks about the creation of the earth, in Revelation John notes he sees a new heaven and a new earth.
      - b) Both reference of sun & moon, day and night.
      - c) There's a river running through the middle of Eden and of the New Jerusalem.
      - d) Both speak of being face to face with God.
      - e) After the fall, an angel was placed at the entrance of Eden so no one could enter. Angels are placed at the gates here, but its reversed and those gates are never shut: all can enter.
      - f) Eden was ruined through the entrance of that which was unclean and accursed, John notes that can never enter here.
      - g) Biggest: John notes The Tree
  - C. As life as it was meant to be
    - 1. Not given itinerary of what we will do, just image of being with God like Adam & Eve were before the Fall
    - 2. We were created to enjoy God and his gifts, and we will do that for eternity without any hint of sin or evil
  - D. Why will this time be any different than Garden or Israel?
    - 1. Because people are different
    - 2. God has move decisively through Jesus to deal with our brokenness
  - E. Why it matters
    - 1. What will we do with Jesus?
      - a) Call to place faith in him
    - 2. Hope for everyday
      - a) Living in light of eternity changes how we see everything
      - b) 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
      - c) Both the best times and the worst times can ignite our hope for heaven

## Small Group Questions

1) What type of image comes to your mind when you think of heaven? Where do you think you got that image?

2) During the sermon, Tyler said that God's salvation project is not a rescue by evacuation but a rescue by invasion. When you've thought about eternity in the past, did you picture it as us going to be with God or with God coming to be with us? How does thinking about spending eternity with God in a renewed physical world impact your understanding of eternity?

3) How does one qualify for heaven? Who has God brought into your life right now that needs to know that there is a heaven, that they can go there, and that it's going to be "more than they could imagine?"

4) Has the hope of heaven impacted how you handle difficult times in life?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What do you think of Paul referring to the difficulties of this life as "light and momentary troubles?" Is that how you perceive them? What is one thing you can do to help you have a perspective a little more like Paul's?