

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Join the Conversation Part 2

TITLE: Heaven

DATE: July 17, 2016

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We are in our series called Join the Conversation: Part 2. The first installment was aimed at engaging with those who may have some strong skepticism towards Christianity, people who might get frazzled at how some Christians think about hell, homosexuality, science, and so on. We encourage you to go listen to, watch, and share those previous sermons at our web site.

This installment has a slightly different focus: Christians in dialogue with other Christians over 'tougher questions' that are often misunderstood or interpreted differently. The purpose of this series is not to answer every single question, but to help you see the value of these discussions and then take part in them.

In this message, we consider a Christian's final destination: our home in heaven.

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### Related books:

*Heaven* by Randy Alcorn

*Heaven: Your Real Home* by Joni Eareckson Tada

### Summary of 1 Peter 1:3-13:

Descriptive adjectives Peter gives to us to help understand our future hope:

#### ● Imperishable

- Our inheritance will never decay or deteriorate.
- This implies that heaven is a real place we can see, touch, and experience.
- No uncertainty about the future, no worry...
- "We will live in succession of past, present, and future, but in such a way that the past moves along with us as a blessing and the future radiates through the present so that we strive without restlessness and rest without idleness, and so that, though always progressing, we are always at our destination." - Henry Berkhof

#### ● Undefined

- Our inheritance is pure and free from blemish.
- No more crying, no pain, and no sorrow. No sickness and no dying. No evil of any kind. No fear of terrorism, no tension of racial differences, and no danger.
- No more effects of the fall, temptation, or spiritual attacks by Satan.

#### ● Unfading

- Our inheritance will always keep its original brightness and beauty.

- There will always be new things to see, new places to go, new friends to laugh with and do things with.
- There will be incredible diversity.
- The best parts of this world are just sneak previews of what we will see and experience in heaven.

If you are in Christ, this inheritance is reserved in heaven for you!

Charles Spurgeon said it like this: "How I delight to dwell upon the thought that heaven is not to be scrambled for, that the portion of each saint in glory is given to him by lot even as was Canaan of old to Judah, to Reuben, of Manasseh, and the like. There is a place in heaven for me which none of you could fill. There is a harp which no fingers can strike but mine, and a crown which no brow can wear but this. And so with each of you..."

### **Application:**

**SET YOUR HOPE:** We need to live our lives from the future backward.

Verse 13 tells us to set our hope fully on the future revelation of Christ, not on this world, its material offerings, political problems, or thin promises. When we set our minds on earthly things, our hope shrinks. Instead, we need to SET OUR HOPE on the inheritance to come, our true home with God.

Reinterpret what is right in front of you in light of the things your eyes cannot yet see. Because of Jesus and his sacrifice in our place, we have this living hope, this inheritance kept in heaven for us that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

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### **For Discussion:**

1. How do you imagine heaven?
2. Think of a time when you felt expected somewhere great... how did the anticipation of that moment affect the way you lived leading up to it? Jesus is waiting to welcome you into heaven, the greatest place any of us could ever be. How does that make you feel?
3. Mother Teresa mused that when we get to heaven even the most difficult life will seem like a night in an inconvenient hotel. How does that perspective affect you today?