

S E S S I O N



HOME

PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

What do we do before leaving for a vacation?

We ⁽²⁰¹⁾ _____

We ⁽²⁰²⁾ _____

We ⁽²⁰³⁾ _____

Why do believers spend so little time imagining Heaven?

*You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. - **John 8:44***

*Then he (satanic beast) opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. - **Revelation 13:6***

Satan lies about . . .

God's ⁽²⁰⁴⁾ _____

God's ⁽²⁰⁵⁾ _____

God's ⁽²⁰⁶⁾ _____

“Satan need not convince us that Heaven doesn't exist. He need only convince us that Heaven is a place of boring, unearthly existence. If we believe that lie, we'll be robbed of our joy and anticipation, we'll set our minds on this life and not the next, and we won't be motivated to share our faith. Why should we share the “good news” that people can spend eternity in a boring, ghostly place that even we're not looking forward to?”

Heaven by Randy Alcorn

Wedding Preparations

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. - **John 14:1-3**

• **The place Jesus is preparing is not** ⁽²⁰⁷⁾ _____

DEFINITION – 1. Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality; intangible.
2. Highly refined; delicate.
3. a. Of the celestial spheres; heavenly.
b. Not of this world; spiritual.

• **Human beings are both spiritual and** ⁽²⁰⁸⁾ _____ **by nature**

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. - **Genesis 2:7**

• **We cannot anticipate or desire what we cannot** ⁽²⁰⁹⁾ _____

But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. - **1 Corinthians 2:9-12**

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. - **Deuteronomy 29:29**

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. - **Isaiah 55:8-9**

God’s thoughts are indeed higher than our thoughts, BUT when they are revealed in Scripture, He expects us to study, meditate, and understand them!

• **Concordance has 1405 occurrences of the word “know” and its derivatives**

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. - **Colossians 3:1-4**

DESTINY

ESCHATOLOGY - DEFINITION

1. a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind
2. a belief concerning death, the end of the world, or the ultimate destiny of humankind; specifically: any of various Christian doctrines concerning the Second Coming, the resurrection of the dead, or the Last Judgment

Regardless of your eschatological views on pre-tribulation, post-tribulation, amillennial, premillennial, postmillennial . . .

• **God's children are destined for life as** ⁽²¹⁰⁾ _____ **beings**
on a ⁽²¹¹⁾ _____ **Earth.**

PRESENT (INTERMEDIATE) HEAVEN

• **Where Christians go when they die**

- To await our bodily resurrection
- To await Christ's return to the earth
- To await the final judgment
- To await the creation of the New Heavens and New Earth

• **It is not an eternal place – it was created**

- It's not where God must dwell – He chooses to dwell there
- It is apparently finite since angels come and go from there
- It is neither timeless nor changeless

• **Life in the Intermediate Heaven**

- We remember our life on earth (Revelation 6:9-11)
- We see what is happening on earth (to some degree)
- We intercede for those on earth

FUTURE HEAVEN

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."
- **Revelation 21:1-5**

• **We long for what the first man and woman once enjoyed – a perfect and beautiful Earth with free and untainted relationships with God, each other, the animals, and our environment.**

• **We were made FROM the earth, so too we were made FOR the earth**

• **God's ultimate plan is not to take us up to live in a realm made for Him, but to come down and live with us in a realm made for us.**

*The biblical doctrine of the New Earth implies something startling: that if we want to know what the ultimate Heaven, our eternal home, will be like, the best place to start is by looking around us. We shouldn't close our eyes and try to imagine the unimaginable. We should open our eyes, because the present Earth is as much a valid reference point for envisioning the New Earth as our present bodies are a valid reference point for envisioning our new bodies. - **Heaven by Randy Alcorn***

• **God specializes in:**

(212) _____

(213) _____

(214) _____

(215) _____

(216) _____

(217) _____

(218) _____

(219) _____

BOTTOM LINE

How you live your life – what you think about, talk about, hope for – will have an undeniable and irrefutable impact on the people you come in contact with. Will you invest your life by influencing the future generations for eternity, or by seeking affluence that is but a fleeting shadow of what could be?

PRACTICE TEN

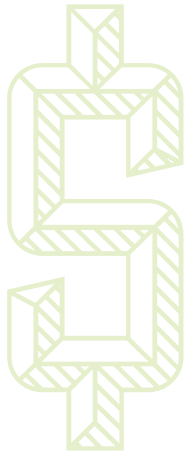
Day (220) _____ Daily

*“Soon you will read in the newspaper that I am dead. Don’t believe it for a moment. I will be more alive than ever before.” - **D.L. Moody***

Recommendation

We can’t recommend in strong enough terms the book titled “Heaven” by Randy Alcorn (2004). This complete and thoroughly engaging study of our future destiny will awaken your imagination and excitement for what Jesus is busy preparing for us.

SESSION 23 SUMMARY



The common caricature of a Heaven that is boring and unappealing could not be further from the truth. Scripture provides plenty of clear statements and hints of what we can look forward to. How do we live our best life now? By thinking hard and thinking often of our next life, our eternal life, with Him.

Practice ten: Day Dream Daily!

1. Is there a time, a place, or an activity that most reminds you of Heaven?

2. What can you do to build a habit loop “CUE” that triggers day dreaming of Heaven?

GOD'S DESTINY FOR YOU

¹ For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

- 2 Corinthians 5:1-2

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” - John 14:2

- What awaits us is beyond amazing!
- Do you long for it?
- Do you daydream about it?
- Are you bringing a piece of Heaven to Earth everyday?

READING ASSIGNMENT

HEAVEN - By Randy Alcorn

PRAY FOR HEAVENLY IMAGINATION

Father, I long to live with You. Like Moses, I long to see Your face. Give me an imagination that sees into the heavenlies.

Jesus, thank You for preparing a place for me. I want to see You face to face, and behold Your beauty.

Holy Spirit, remind me everyday of my eternal destiny. Remind me to use the gift of imagination to dream of what awaits. Make my perspective of heaven true to what You’ve revealed in Scripture, but I ask You to tell me something new. Speak Holy Spirit. I am listening.

In Jesus’ Name.