

HOPE-FULL

Hope-Full: Change Is Coming (Week 5)

1 Corinthians 15:35-58; Revelation 21:1-5

OPEN

What have you been learning about *hope*? Has your concept and understanding of hope been challenged or grown in some way?

Defining Hope

What do you think of when you hear the words *the hope of heaven*?

Read John 14:1-4. How has this passage shaped your understanding of heaven?

Consider this: When Jesus says that in my Father's house there are many "rooms" or "dwelling places" or "mansions," as some translations have it, we often misunderstand his meaning. The Greek word for the domicile Jesus speaks of there is "monai." In its original sense, *monai* is akin to our word "apartment" or "motel." The place that God is going to take us to immediately after we die will be only a TEMPORARY dwelling place.

How does this challenge your understanding of heaven?

DISCUSS

Where is Heaven? Scripture provides several facts about heaven.

- Heaven is where God is fully present now
- Heaven is where God's worth is fully recognized and honored
- Heaven is where God's will is done
- Heaven is where God's family relates and rejoices (Gen 25:8; Matt 8:11)
- Heaven is where you will be remade in the character of God.

Discuss the following quote from the weekend sermon:

While we're in this world, however, we're always a bit like RUSTED paperclips. Our brains and bodies and culture have been so subtly and steadily corroded by sin over time that it is hard to get full contact with God for very long. John goes on to say,

however, that **“What we will be has not yet been made known. For we know that when God appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is”** (1 John 3:2). In other words, the moment you get to heaven, you are going to be as close to God as the angels are now. You are going to see him as fully as they do now. You are going to fall on your knees in awe and adoration before him and be magnetized by his holy glory as the citizens of heaven are now...Paul puts it like this: **I declare to you that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen,”** says Paul, **“I tell you a mystery... we will all be changed”** (1 Cor 15:50-51).

If this were the end of the story, that would be enough...BUT THERE IS MORE!

Heaven is also a code word word:

- The source of divine provision
- The present dwelling place of God were souls of the faithful go after death
- *The future state of life on a new earth*

Where is the hope of heaven heading? Take time and read Revelation 21-22:5.

- What peaks your imagination of the new heaven and earth joined together in a new physical reality? What will be real in the new heaven and earth?

Close in prayer responding however you feel led as you contemplate the full reality of the *hope of heaven*.

NEXT STEPS

- Reflect on how your faith needs to be activated because of the hope you have in Christ.
- Read the Bible verses in this study several times this week.
- As you have opportunity, share with others the hope you have in Christ and what you have learned throughout this series.