



## Heaven

Pastor Bill Van Kirk

1. Name some of the pop culture ideas of Heaven and what's wrong with each of those ideas?
2. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-8.** Why do we "groan" and why is it greater to be away from our bodies?
3. What aspect of Heaven do you long for most?
4. If you had a non-Christian friend ask what happens when you die, what exactly would you share with them?
5. **Read Hebrews 12:1-2.** Who are the great cloud of witnesses (Hint: **Hebrews 11**). Why is this motivation to throw off sin and run the race before us?
6. How does a Christian live their lives in light of the reality of Heaven?
7. How can you know that you know for sure that you will see Heaven one day?
8. **Read Revelation 21:4.** Describe the hope we have for all of eternity.
9. We often think of Heaven as a sterilized, floaty cloud place in the sky. Why is that wrong?
10. Why do we need the hope of Heaven as we live out our lives on this earth?

### Helpful passages as you study:

**2 Corinthians 5:1-9**

**Luke 23:43**

**Philippians 1:23-24**

**Hebrews 12:1-2, 22-23**

**Romans 8:23**



# *The New Creation*

Pastor Ryan Groshek

**Helpful passages to read:**  
**Revelation 21:1-22:4; Romans 8:18-24;**  
**1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-55**

1. In this series, we're discussing what the Bible teaches about "The Afterlife" - or what we're calling "Life After Death." What did you grow up learning about the afterlife/heaven? How has your understanding changed over the years?
2. What sort of questions do you still have about the afterlife now?
3. The Bible teaches that there are really two phases to the "afterlife" - the Intermediate State (Heaven) and the Eternal State (The New Creation). Which one will we spend more time in? Which one do you spend more time thinking about? Why?
4. The New Creation will be a restoration of the original creation! **Read Genesis 1:1-2:25** and **Revelation 21:1-22:4** and make a list of similarities and differences.

5. In the original creation, humans were commanded to rule over, work, and care for creation (**Genesis 1:28; 2:15**). What kind of activities do you think we will do in The New Creation?
6. Jesus's resurrection is the model for **our resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)**! What are some things that are true about Jesus' resurrection that might be true for our resurrected bodies? See also **1 Corinthians 15:42-44**.
7. Jot down some ideas about how focusing on The New Creation could change the way we live in the following areas.

**Suffering:**

**Work:**

**Politics:**

**Evangelism:**

**Justice:**

**The Environment:**

**BONUS!** Bible nerds recognize that there will be continuity (sameness) and discontinuity (difference) between this creation and the one to come. However, there is debate about whether God will just destroy the earth and start over, or purify and cleanse what's already here so that the best of human culture/invention/technology remains.

**Read 2 Peter 3:10-13** and **Revelation 21:24-26** and decide what to think for yourself!