



Doggy Bag: *Something to Chew On and Ponder Throughout the Week*

1. Read Revelation 21 – 22:5. Pick out some of the imagery of these final two chapters, e.g., the “new Jerusalem” (21:2), “a bride adorned for her husband” (21:2), “Alpha and Omega” (21:6), the description of the city in 21:15- 27, “the river of the water of life” (22:1), “the tree of life” (22:2), etc. What does each image convey about God? Our future?
2. Why would God want to create an all-new heaven and earth?
3. What is the goal of all redemption? What do you think it will be like living with the continual and direct presence of God eternally?
4. What has caused you mourning, crying, and pain in the last year? What does it mean to you to know that this will ultimately pass away? How might you invite God’s healing power into your life now?
5. The glory of God will extend throughout all the world in the New Creation. We have hope then that God’s glory is breaking through in every sphere of our lives. How does this knowledge change how you live your life now? How have you seen the work of God recently in your home, neighborhood, or workplace; in the lives of those you know?
6. Revelation 22:20 is an oft quoted prayer: “Come, Lord Jesus.” Why are these words important to pray?
7. **Suggested Memory Verse:** “He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more ...” Rev. 21:3-4



Does Heaven Exist?

Revelation 21:1 - 27

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When you stop to consider Heaven, what do you imagine? What do you believe?

Consider: Even as s a young, Anglican priest, John Wesley (the father of Methodism) lacked a sense of assurance about his own salvation.

➤ **We might have doubts too, but like Paul we can be at _____ whether we live or die.**

²⁰ I completely expect and hope that I won't be ashamed in any way. I'm sure I will be brave enough. Now as always Christ will receive glory because of what happens to me. He will receive glory whether I live or die. ²¹ For me, life finds all its meaning in Christ. Death also has its benefits. (Phil. 1:20 -21, NIRV)

➤ **We can experience a deep sense of _____ about eternal life.**

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9, NLT)

So, what can we know about Heaven based on Christian teaching, tradition and the witness of Scripture?

1. Heaven will be a _____, earthly place.

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... (v. 1 -2a)

2. Earth as we know it now will not last _____; there will be no more suffering.

¹⁷“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. ¹⁹I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.” (Isaiah 65:17-19, NIV)

3. The “new earth” will become the “new heaven” because heaven is where _____ presence is found.

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (v. 3)

4. Heaven, the new earth, will have _____ that are dramatically different from life as we now know it.

⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”” (v. 4- 5a)

5. There won’t be _____ in Heaven, because they won’t be necessary.

²²I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Ask Yourself:

Do you need proof in order for something to be true?

Bottom Line about Heaven:

Our Christian hope is based, ultimately, on God’s intentions for creation, especially for us humans. We can affirm with other Christians that we participate – right here, right now – in the first fruits of God’s coming reign and we can pray fervently in hope for its full realization “on earth, as it is in heaven.”