

# HEAVEN & HELL

AN IMMANUEL SERMON SERIES

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### WEEK FIVE: HEAVEN – WHO? WHY?

*And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)*

#### Why preach a sermon series on heaven and hell?

- The Bible talks about heaven and hell, and we want our preaching to be biblical.
- Among Christians, there is great confusion about the doctrine of the afterlife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of us are so “heavenly minded” that we’re no “earthly good.” (Johnny Cash)
- Every \_\_\_\_\_ has to answer the question of what happens when we die?
  - Do the ideas cohere as a system of thought?
  - Do the ideas correspond to external reality?
  - Are the ideas livable for human beings?
  - Do the ideas result in human flourishing?

“Heaven is the place where God most fully makes known his \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*)

“There is \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible does not tell us about heaven (and perhaps that is for the best, lest we misconstrue what it will be like or underestimate how glorious it will be). We don’t know much of what we will be doing (except for singing), nor do we know much about our relationships (expect that we won’t be married). We are given glimpses of the new heavens and new earth as a place where the good things of this life—peace, prosperity, and domestic happiness—will reach a zenith of uninterrupted, uncorrupted perfection (Isa. 65:17–25). The picture of heaven in Revelation 21–22 tells us who is in and who is out, what God is like, and what we will be like in his presence ... but most of what Revelation has to say (taking up almost all of chapter 21) is an extended description of the church in her end-times beauty. The heavenly new Jerusalem is glorious ... safe ... and holy ... Finally, let us not overlook the promise that the saints — for all eternity, and even now upon death — are reigning with Christ. We cannot be sure all that this entails. It may mean that believers affirm the judgments of Christ, or that they (along with the angels) form a heavenly counsel, or that the imagery is meant to convey that those who were trampled in this life will be vindicated in the next. At the heart of the promise is the restoration of the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve to their rightful place as image bearers who exercise dominion on the earth. We were made to be creation-kings over God’s creation-kingdom. If we are called by Christ to accomplish his work here on earth, how much more can we expect, as glorified saints, to participate with his work in heaven? (Kevin DeYoung, *Daily Doctrine*)

#### **In the end, who will be in heaven?**

- The one, true, \_\_\_\_\_ God (2 Kings 19:15, Nehemiah 1:4, Psalm 115:3, Hebrews 12:22-24, Revelation 1:4-6).
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven (1 Samuel 1:3, Psalm 84:1, Isaiah 6:1-3, Ezekiel 1:1-28, Luke 2:13-14 ... Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:7-10, Colossians 1:15-16, Revelation 4:6-11, 5:11-14).
- \_\_\_\_\_ - sinful human beings whose names were written in the Lamb’s book of life and who have been made clean by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 5:8-10, 7:9-12, 19:6-9, 20:11-15).

“Hell is eternity in the presence of God \_\_\_\_\_ a mediator. Heaven is eternity in the presence of God, \_\_\_\_\_ a mediator.” (RA Finlayson)

#### **In the end, why will the redeemed be in heaven?**

- “Man’s chief end is to \_\_\_\_\_ God, and to \_\_\_\_\_ him forever.” (Westminster Shorter Catechism)
- The redeemed will receive \_\_\_\_\_ based on their stewardship of God’s grace (Matthew 25:14-30).
- The redeemed will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ forever, world without end (Revelation 3:21).