



BREAKING THE ICE

What plans have you set for your summer?

How well do you live in the present moment? Are you always looking forward to something coming?

Where did God give you a heart for people this last week?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Jeff Henderson was here to talk about Heaven. Sometimes we can dismiss heaven because it seems far off and not relevant.

1. What do you imagine heaven will be like? (think of what you imagined before you heard Jeff Henderson speak)

Most of our lives we have believed Heaven is a place in the sky with fluffy clouds and angels singing. Heaven can seem boring compared to our lives on earth. Most of us want to live our lives fully here on earth before we go to heaven.

“Most Christians know so little about heaven that they’re more excited about retirement than they are about eternity?” John Burke

2. How can you change your thinking to look forward to heaven instead of worrying about doing the things you want to accomplish?

We hold onto our lives too tightly. We view heaven vaguely that it does not have anything to do with today. But scripture tells us heaven is the new earth.

Read: Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13

Everything God created will become new. A new heaven and a new earth.

3. How do you picture a new heaven and new earth?

Everything was once new but when sin entered the world, everything started to die. But God had a

plan in the midst of the sin. When God says new heaven and new earth He talks about a kainos (restored, renewed and redeemed) heaven and earth.

4. What would it look like in your life to have a restored, renewed and redeemed world around you?

Heaven on earth was life in the Garden of Eden before sin entered the world. Beautiful sunsets or sunrises, amazing time with friends and family, these things are heaven on earth. God knew He was going to redeem this planet and us once sin entered the world.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

As followers of Jesus, we should make it our goal to please the Lord. When we are people of heaven, we are walking and understanding that everything we do is an opportunity to bring heaven to others.

5. How can you be heavenly minded, helping others know about the gift of heaven?

Heaven is closer than we think. We are welcomed into Heaven because of the grace of Jesus and what He has done for us, not what we have done. However; what we do does matter, we will give God an account of what we do for Jesus. Yes, we have had mistakes in our past but we have an opportunity to look towards the future and what we can do for Jesus. We can make decisions of integrity that are heavenly minded that give glory to Jesus.

6. What are some decisions you need to make, things you need to do that are integrity driven and heavenly minded?

God is restoring us to be new, He is redeeming us for the new heavens and new earth.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for restoring us and making us new. Help us think with integrity and eternity on our mind. Surround us with those who are heavenly minded as well and show us opportunities to invite others into your kingdom. Holy Spirit, guide our actions and words. Give us wisdom and discernment to follow you and to help others know your love. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + Read heaven by Randy Alcorn
- + How can you please God this week and be heavenly minded with decisions you need to make?