



Ticket to Paradise

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Melbourne Community Church
September 16, 2018

What will we learn?

❖ Where to Go:

- ❖ Garden of Eden.
- ❖ New Jerusalem.
- ❖ The River and the Tree of Life.

❖ What to Do:

- ❖ Be rejuvenated.
- ❖ Eat and drink.
- ❖ Learn

Biblical Answers to Common Questions

HEAVEN

RANDY
ALCORN

A hand in a white sleeve is shown reaching out from the right side of the frame towards the book cover. A thin red horizontal line is drawn across the hand and the book cover.

❖ *Heaven*
— by Randy Alcorn

Week one

- ❖ We should set our hearts and minds on Heaven.
- ❖ Heaven is not the default setting for fallen humanity.
- ❖ Salvation is assured for believers in Jesus.


Week two

- ❖ The present Heaven is above us, but it will come down to Earth after Jesus returns.
- ❖ Deceased believers are already in Heaven with the Lord.
- ❖ One day, we will all be changed, and Heaven itself will be changed.

Week four

- ❖ The resurrection of Jesus is a model for our resurrection.
- ❖ The curse of sin will be lifted for humanity and for all of creation.
- ❖ We should live in anticipation of heavenly rewards.

Last week:

- ❖ In Heaven:
 - ❖ We will see God.
 - ❖ We will worship.
 - ❖ We will work/serve.
 - ❖ We will rule.
 - ❖ We can prepare now for our future roles in Heaven.
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Human history:

- ❖ Paradise: Genesis 1-2
- ❖ Fall and Redemption: Genesis 3 - Revelation 20
- ❖ Paradise regained: Revelation 21-22

In Heaven



- ❖ Restored nature

Isaiah 35:1-2

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

Isaiah 35:2

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

Isaiah 51:3

The LORD will surely comfort Zion
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;
he will make her deserts like Eden,
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

In Heaven



- ❖ Restored nature
- ❖ Restored cities

Ezekiel 36:33-34

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it.

Ezekiel 36:35

“They will say, “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.””

Heaven Metaphors

❖ Country

- ❖ Luke 19:12
- ❖ Hebrews 11:14-16

❖ City

- ❖ Hebrews 11:8-10
- ❖ Hebrews 12:22
- ❖ Hebrews 13:14
- ❖ Revelation 21:2

Randy Alcorn

“We can expect more magnificent mountains and more beautiful lakes and flowers than those on earth. If we imagine the New Earth to have fewer and less beautiful features than the old, we picture the earth’s regression. The least we should expect is retention. But, in fact, I believe there’s every reason to anticipate progression.”

Revelation 22:1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

New Jerusalem



- ❖ River of Life
- ❖ Tree of Life

Randy Alcorn



“He [God] always meets His peoples’ needs
and fulfills their longings.”

John 4:13-14

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Tree of Life in the Bible

- ❖ Genesis 2:9
- ❖ Genesis 3:22
- ❖ Genesis 3:24
- ❖ Revelation 2:7
- ❖ Revelation 22:2
- ❖ Revelation 22:14
- ❖ Revelation 22:19

Ezekiel 47:12

“Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

Revelation 21/Ezekiel 47 Imagery:

- ❖ River from God's throne
- ❖ Tree bearing fruit monthly
- ❖ Leaves for healing



2 Peter 3:8

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends:
With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like a day.

We will be ourselves


- ❖ Job 19:26-27
- ❖ Luke 24:39
- ❖ Matthew 8:11
- ❖ John 20:10-18
- ❖ John 20:24-29
- ❖ John 21:4-7
- ❖ John 21:15-22
- ❖ Isaiah 66:22
- ❖ Matthew 26:29
- ❖ Revelation 20:15
- ❖ Revelation 21:27

Matthew 8:11

[Jesus]: “I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”


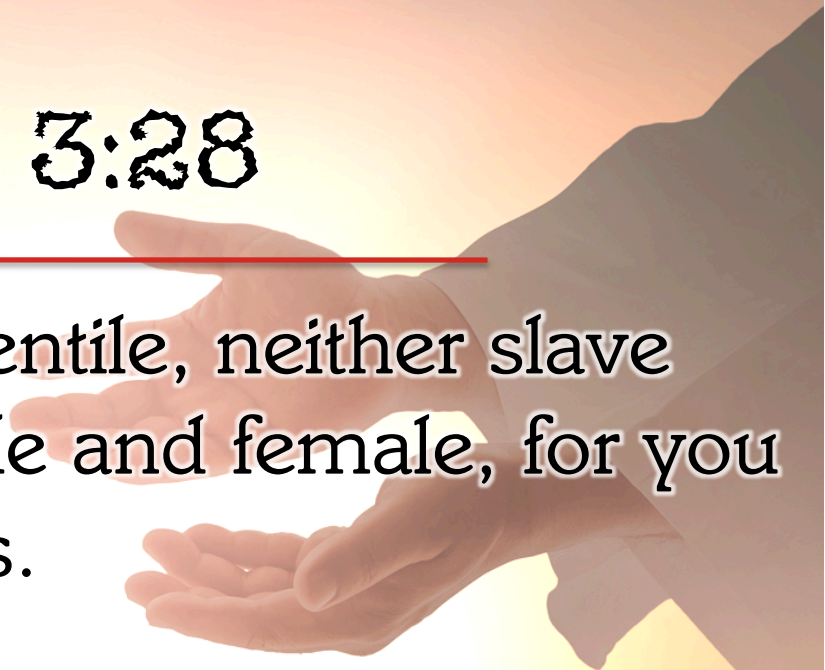
Isaiah 66:22

“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure.”



Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Jesus' Resurrection Abilities

- ❖ Teleportation – Luke 24:31, 36
- ❖ Defy gravity – Luke 24:51, Acts 1:9
- ❖ Walk through walls – John 20:19, 26

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 21:4

“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.”

Christ died once for *ALL* sin

- ❖ Romans 6:7
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:52
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:21
- ❖ Hebrews 9:26-28
- ❖ Hebrews 10:10
- ❖ Hebrews 10:14
- ❖ 1 Peter 3:18

Hebrews 10:14

For by one sacrifice he (Christ) has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Separate Destination for Evildoers

- ❖ Matthew 13:41-43
- ❖ Revelation 20:10
- ❖ Revelation 21:8
- ❖ Revelation 21:27
- ❖ Revelation 22:15



Revelation 21:27


Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Paul Helm

The freedom of heaven, then, is the freedom from sin; not that the believer just happens to be free from sin, but that he is so constituted or reconstituted that he cannot sin. He doesn't want to sin, and he does not want to want to sin.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror;
then we shall see face to face. Now I know
in part; then I shall know fully,
even as I am fully known.



Jonathan Edwards



The saints will be progressive in knowledge to all eternity. The number of ideas of the saints shall increase to eternity.

Aspects of Daily Life

- ❖ Feasting – Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 8:11, Luke 14:12-14, Luke 22:18, 29-30, Revelation 2:7, Revelation 19:9
- ❖ Work – Genesis 2:15, John 4:34, John 5:17, John 17:4, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Colossians 3:23, 2 Timothy 2:21, Titus 1:7, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 1:17, Revelation 2:2, Revelation 22:3

Aspects of Daily Life

- ❖ Homes – Isaiah 65:21, Luke 16:9, John 14:2
- ❖ Rest – Genesis 2:2, Exodus 20:9-11, Leviticus 25:4-5, Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 4:1-11, Revelation 14:13

What have we learned?

- ❖ Heaven will have better versions of the best parts of earth
- ❖ God is the source of true Life
- ❖ Jesus died to free us from sin
- ❖ Our lives will include: learning, work and rest
- ❖ We can prepare for it now



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the Lord's Supper

Two text boxes

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