



He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

-Matthew 28:6 KJV

Easter Sunday "The Day Death Died" March 27th, 2016

Many people believe that when you die you go to heaven. What if there is more to our spiritual journey than just heaven? What if heaven is just a "stop over" on our way to an even greater destination? Could it be possible that God has an even greater plan for us than simply spend eternity in this place called heaven?

1. OPENING DISCUSSION: What do you think heaven is like and where do you think it is located?
2. READ *Isaiah 65:17-18 and 2 Peter 3:13*
 - a. What did God promise the prophet Isaiah?
 - b. What does Peter say he is looking forward to?
3. READ *Revelation 21:1-5*
 - a. What is happening here?
 - b. Where is this happening?
 - c. What promises are given?
 - d. Where is God making his home in verse 3?
 - e. How is this entire passage of scripture different from what you may understand heaven to be?
 - f. When do you think all this will occur?
4. READ: *1 Corinthians 15:12-19*
 - a. What is Paul's key argument about the resurrection from the dead?
 - b. Why is this critical to the Christian faith?
 - c. What does he say about your faith in verse 17?
 - d. What words does Paul use for death in verse 18?
5. READ: *1 Corinthians 15:20-23*
 - a. State Paul's main argument in these verses.
 - b. What does he mean by "first fruits"?
 - c. What happens when Christ comes back (vs 23)?
6. READ: *1 Corinthians 15:24-28*
 - a. What is the first thing that will happen when Christ returns?
 - b. What do you think he means by "the end will come"?
 - c. What is the "last enemy"?
 - d. In what way is death an enemy?

7. READ *1 Corinthians 15:29-34*
 - a. What type of appeal is Paul making to his audience?
 - b. Do you think he is being a bit sarcastic? Why or why not?
8. READ *1 Corinthians 15: 35-41*
 - a. State in your own words the point Paul is making.
 - b. How would you explain this to an unbeliever?
9. READ *1 Corinthians 15: 42-44*
 - a. What two types of bodies are referred to here?
10. READ *1 Corinthians 15:45*
 - a. What is the "first man" said to be?
 - b. What is Christ said to be?
 - c. Explain how Christ is a "life giving spirit". What is he giving life to?
11. READ *1 Corinthians 15: 46-49*
 - a. What is contrasted here?
 - b. What is promised?
12. READ *1 Corinthians 15:50*
 - a. What statement is made?
 - b. Explain what you think Paul means.
13. READ *1 Corinthians 15:51-54*
 - a. What mystery and what victory are expressed here?
 - b. Why is defeating death a victory?
 - c. When does all this happen to the believer?
14. READ *1 Corinthians 15:55-57*
 - a. Do your best to explain verse 56.
15. READ *1 Corinthians 15:58*
 - a. The entire proceeding chapter focuses on this last verse. Explain why Paul uses the word "therefore"?
 - b. In what ways is a bodily resurrection related to this last verse?
 - c. How can this future hope be helpful to us today?

In what ways will you think differently about heaven because of today's study? What do you believe about the ultimate destination of those who have put their faith in Christ?

If you had the opportunity to share the gospel with someone this week and they asked about heaven, what would you say? Perhaps you can help each other in your group to develop some messaging around this question.

As you spend time with the Lord this week, reflect on what it will be like for you to live in the New Kingdom of God here on earth with your new body. What do you think it will be like? Can you imagine it!

Think about how this hope can keep you focused on the work the Lord has for you.

PRAYER AND PRAISE:

1. As a group, give thanks to the Lord for the sale of our Prete Street building and the ability to continue on with our Daycare Centre, being of benefit to the children of our community and our daycare staff. This is truly a miracle!
2. Please pray for the sale of Mission Studios. There is an offer on the building, but there are a few challenges.
3. Continue to pray for Capital Campaign funds to come in as these are needed to pay down our construction loan.