



Jeremy White, Lead Pastor
Valley Church

December 14 & 15, 2019
Week 40 – Forever With Jesus

Introduction:

Heaven: Four Common Myths De-Mystified

1. The place we go when we die is the same place we will spend _____

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
 Revelation 21:1-4

2. Heaven will be boring and _____

Luke 16:22
 Hebrews 1:14
 2 Peter 1:11
 Randy Alcorn's book "Heaven" – a must-read

3. Heaven will be purely spiritual, since the physical world is _____

Genesis	Revelation
1:1 – heavens & earth created	21:1 – new heaven & earth
1:16 – sun created	21:23 – no need for sun
1:5 – night established	22:5 – no night there
3:14-17 – the curse arrives	22:3 – no more curse (satan, serpent, soil)
3:19 – death enters history	21:4 – no more death
3:24 – man driven from paradise	22:14 – man welcomed to paradise
3:17 – sorrow and pain begin	21:4 – no more tears or pain

4. In Heaven we will be absorbed into God and lose our individual _____

Job 19:26-27
 John 14:1-6

The Big Idea: "If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world" (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity).

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION/FAMILY DISCUSSION:

Personal Life:

1. What are some of the most common questions you've sought answers to regarding the afterlife in general, and Heaven specifically? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Did "Myth #1" from the weekend message surprise you? Have you ever considered that the "intermediate Heaven" you will go to when you die will not be the same as the "New Heaven and the New Earth" you will inherit when Jesus returns?
3. Reflecting on "Myth #2," have you ever felt guilty for thinking that if Heaven were an "eternal church service," you may get bored with it? Why do you think it is so critical that we realize the truth about how we will spend our time in Heaven (enjoying relationships, serving the King of Kings, and loving each other). Discuss...
4. Looking at the chart offered under Myth #3 on the message notes, why is it so important for us to see the parallels between how His Story begins and how it ends? Why does understanding this actually matter for us on a daily basis as we live here currently on earth? Discuss...
5. Why is it important for us to realize that we will continue to function as human souls with individual identities and new glorified bodies throughout eternity, as opposed to just being "absorbed" into God or the universe as some cults and religions teach? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. You know the essence of His Story, based on the powerful testimony of the written Word of God. Not everyone knows this story, and consequently, not everyone shares this world view. How will you now respond to this 40-week series by putting yourself into the story God is telling? Do you see yourself as a part of God's cast of characters or merely as part of the audience? What adjustments can you make in order to begin living more consciously as part of God's cast?