

Sermon Summary and Questions

Sermon Summary: That You May Know Heaven

Text: Ephesians 1:15–19

Date: April 13, 2025

Big Idea: Many of us live with an uncertain, vague, or even anxious view of Heaven. But Scripture—and Paul’s prayer—urges us to **know** the hope, inheritance, and power that are ours in Christ, all culminating in the truth and glory of Heaven.

INTRODUCTION: Eternity Is in Our Hearts

Illustration: Bryan Johnson’s extreme health regimen and \$2M+ annual routine to “not die” is a modern (if misguided) expression of humanity’s deep longing for eternity. Like Bryan, many try to preserve life rather than truly live.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:11 – *“He has set eternity in the human heart...”*

Takeaway: We are all wired for eternity. Our desire to live forever is God-given—but without the Spirit, we will aim at the wrong side of eternity.

MAIN TEXT: Ephesians 1:15–19

Paul’s prayer is that the Spirit would open the eyes of our hearts so that we might **know**:

1. The **hope** to which God has called us
2. The **riches** of our glorious **inheritance** in the saints
3. The **immeasurable greatness** of God’s **power** toward those who believe

These aren’t vague religious ideas. They are tied to a very real place: **Heaven**—our future home and destination.

PART 1: The Power of What We Know (or Don't Know) About Heaven

False beliefs about Heaven shape our lives. Whether you're a Christian or not, what you believe about the afterlife impacts how you live in the present.

Paul's prayer is that we **don't guess, flinch, or fear**, but truly *know* the certainty and beauty of Heaven.

PART 2: What We Often Believe About Heaven vs. What Is True

Each of the following false beliefs was countered with scriptural truth and vivid illustrations to stir our imaginations and lift our eyes.

1. FALSE: Heaven is scary (like a vast void or unknown space)

TRUTH: Heaven is full of **delight, joy, and pleasure** in God's presence.

Scripture:

- Psalm 16:11 – *"In your presence there is fullness of joy..."*
- Isaiah 65:18–19 – *"I will create Jerusalem to be a delight..."*

Illustration: The good gifts we enjoy now—family meals, laughter, creativity, beauty—are glimpses. Heaven is all of that, **unbroken and unending**.

Question:

- Do I see God as a Father who delights to give joy?
 - What earthly joys point me toward the greater joy of Heaven?
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2. FALSE: Heaven is boring and monotonous

TRUTH: Heaven is full of **purpose, work, fruitfulness, and creative calling**.

Scripture:

- Isaiah 65:21 – *“They shall build houses and inhabit them...”*
- Revelation 5:10 – *“They shall reign on the earth.”*
- Luke 19:17 – *“Take charge of ten cities.”*

Illustration: Like Eden, Heaven includes fulfilling work—without frustration, failure, or burnout. You were made to create, build, lead, tend, and reign. Those good longings don’t disappear—they are fulfilled.

Question:

- What activities make me feel most alive or fruitful?
 - How does it impact me to know that Heaven includes purposeful work?
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3. FALSE: Heaven will rob me of my identity

TRUTH: Heaven will make you **more fully yourself** than ever before—glorified and perfected.

Scripture:

- 1 Cor. 15:35–44 – *“The body sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable...”*
- Luke 24:39 – Jesus says after His resurrection: *“It is I myself!”*
- Matthew 8:11 – Abraham is named, recognized in Heaven.

Illustration: Like a seed becoming a giant sequoia, our current selves are just a small preview of the glory and strength we will have in Heaven.

Question:

- What do I fear I might “lose” in Heaven?
 - How does it comfort me to know I’ll be truly myself—redeemed and renewed?
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4. FALSE: Heaven is lonely

TRUTH: Heaven is deeply **relational**—with God and with His people.

Scripture:

- Luke 23:43 – “*Today you will be with me in paradise.*”
- Revelation 21:3 – “*God himself will be with them...*”

Illustration: Heaven is not isolation in the clouds—it’s communion with Jesus and His people. Infinite presence, infinite relationship.

Question:

- Do I picture God as someone who wants to be close to me?
 - How does this relational vision of Heaven inspire my faith?
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5. FALSE: Heaven is just a really long church service

TRUTH: Heaven is a **wedding celebration**, a feast, a joyful gathering.

Scripture:

- Revelation 19:6–9 – “*Blessed are those invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.*”

Illustration: A wedding feast isn’t about floral centerpieces—it’s about joy, dancing, and deep connection. That’s how God describes Heaven.

Question:

- What’s the most joyful celebration I’ve experienced?
 - How would my view of Heaven shift if I pictured it as a feast rather than a formal service?
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PART 3: Why Thinking About Heaven Matters Now

“Don’t be so heavenly minded that you’re no earthly good” is a lie.

C.S. Lewis: “*Aim at Heaven and you’ll get Earth thrown in; aim at Earth and you’ll get neither.*”

What we do in life echoes in eternity

(Even Gladiator got that right.)

Scripture:

- Luke 9:24–25 – “Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it...”
- Matthew 6:19–21 – “Store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven...”
- 1 Cor. 2:9 – “No eye has seen... what God has prepared...”

Illustration: Francis Chan’s rope analogy—this life is just one tiny bit of the rope, and eternity stretches on. What will you live for?

Question:

- What part of my life right now has *eternal* impact?
- Where am I storing up treasure—in this life or the next?

CONCLUSION: Don’t Just Not Die—TRULY LIVE

Heaven isn’t fiction—it’s **more real than anything we’ve known**. God wants us to live with the **certainty** of our future, not vague sentiment. The Holy Spirit is the one who opens our hearts to *know* this hope, inheritance, and power.

Final Charge:

- Don’t live just trying to preserve your life—**live for eternity**.
- Let Heaven shape your joy, your generosity, your evangelism, your purpose.

Prayer:

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ... may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation... that you may know...”(Eph. 1:17–19)

Spend time in prayer as a group.