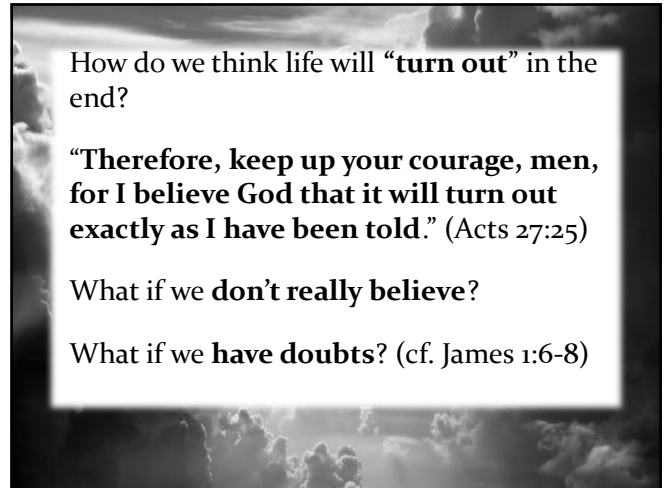
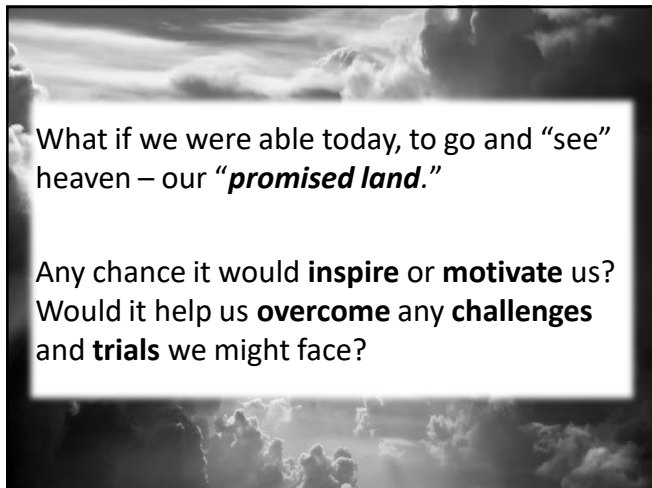




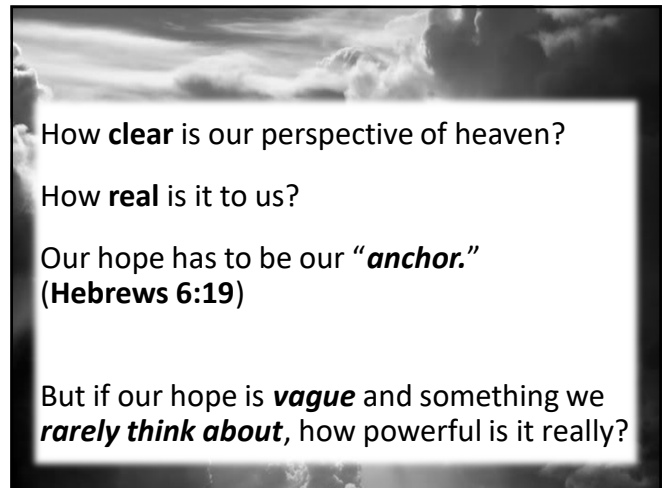
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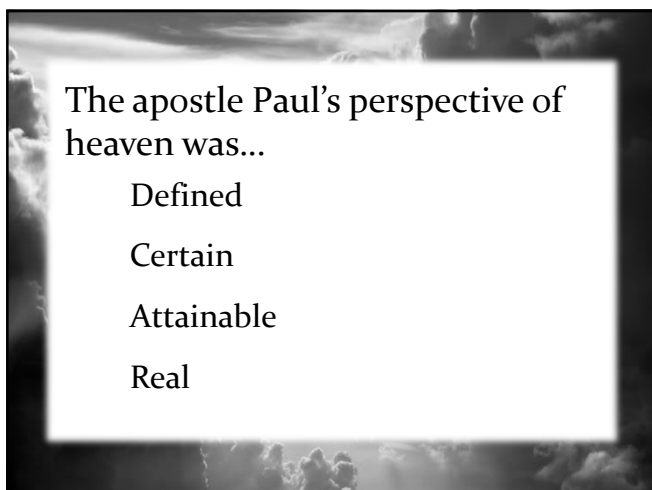
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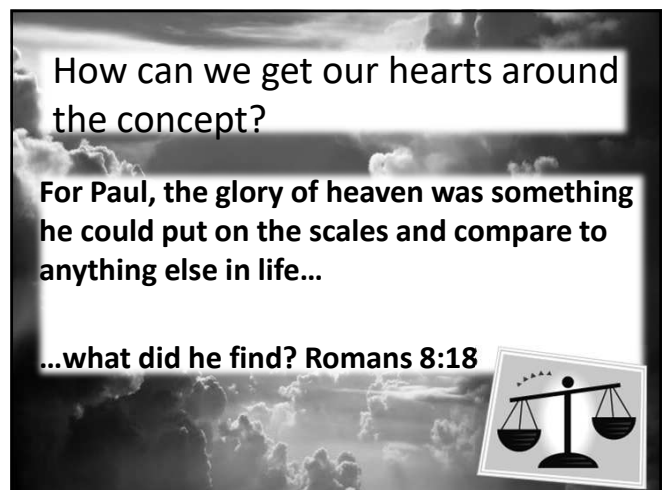
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4



5




6

*"For I **consider** that the sufferings of this present time are **not worthy to be compared** with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)*

"Consider" – **"Reckon"** (ASV, KJV) which means...

- **"to take an inventory, i.e., estimate"** (Strong)
- **"Count, compute, or calculate"** (Thayer)



7

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Momentary Light Affliction < **Eternal weight of glory**

"Beyond all comparison" – **"more exceedingly"** (ASV)

From the Greek word **"hyperbole"** meaning "a throwing beyond others; supereminence – superiority" (Strong, Thayer and Vine)

8

How strong was Paul's longing for heaven?

Philippians 1:19-26

"To live is Christ, to die is gain"

*"...having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is **very much better**..."*

9

To Paul, the reward of heaven was **something to be "laid hold of"** (Philippians 3:13-14)

• Defined as:

- **"to take eagerly, seize, possess"** (Strong)
- **"to lay hold of so as to make one's own"** (Thayer)

Paul knew what was he was **"pressing"** on toward – the goal, the prize, the upward call of God in Christ Jesus – heaven.

10

We need to have the **"full assurance of hope"**

*"But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize **the full assurance of hope** until the end..."* (Hebrews 6:9-11)

11

We must **not waver in unbelief** but **grow strong in faith!**

*"...yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did **not waver in unbelief** but **grew strong in faith**, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness."* (Romans 4:20-22)

12

We must **believe that He is**, AND that **He rewards those who seek Him!**

*“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.** By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”*
(Hebrews 11:6-7)

13

How strong was Paul’s longing for heaven?

The closer he got, the more real and certain it became.

2 Timothy 4:8,

*“... **the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day.**”*

We can’t wait until our dying days...

14

Paul’s prayer for his brethren is that we grow in our ability to “see” (**now**) what God has in store for the faithful and obedient.

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is **the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.** These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might...”*
(Ephesians 1:18-19)

15

How is our spiritual vision?

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened” so that you will **know**:*

1. *“**The hope of His calling**”,*
2. *“**The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**”,*
3. *“**The surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.**”*
(Ephesians 1:18-19)

16

Challenges?

Focusing all of our heart and soul and mind on **what can’t be seen.**

And if we can, **holding on** for what would appear to be a long way off.

How do we acquire a **true & accurate** (i.e., biblical) **perspective of heaven?**

17

What Is Heaven Like?

Unlike anything we know of in this life:

*“...born again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is **imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...**”*
(1 Peter 1:3b-4)

18

What Is Heaven Like?

- Not a “state” but a place.
- Not physical, but a **spiritual** place.
- Defined by **what is there**.
- Defined by **what is not there**.

19

What Is Heaven Like?

Defined by what is there:

Describing the indescribable...

*“But just as it is written, ‘**Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.**’” (1 Corinthians 2:9)*

20

What Is Heaven Like?

Revelation Chapter 21

What has been covered in chapters 12-21?

- The **war against the saints** & the church.
- The **punishment of the wicked**.
- The **destruction of Satan** and his servants.

The concluding issue - the **reward of the righteous** & the **glory of the faithful**.

21

Revelation Chapter 21

Vs. 1 – “A new heaven and a new earth”

Use of this phrase:

1. **God’s own people.** Isaiah 65:17-19
2. **What God has promised following the 2nd coming and final judgment.**
2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-2
3. **In Christ, we are new creatures.**
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Represents a **divine changing of the order**.

22

Revelation Chapter 21

Vs. 2 – The holy city, new Jerusalem

“New” – new in kind, superior to that which preceded it.

“Coming down out of heaven” – of a divine origin, not built by men. A **“lasting city”** (Hebrews 13:14)

Sought for by the patriarchs of old. (Hebrews 11:10)

23

Revelation Chapter 21

Vs. 3 – The tabernacle of God is with men.

“Pitched” by God and not man. Hebrews 8:2; 9:11

God shall **“dwell among them”**. Perfect fellowship with our heavenly Father. (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

We shall **“see His face”** (22:4)
cf. Genesis 3:8; Exodus 3:6; 1 John 3:2-3

24

Revelation Chapter 21

Vs. 4 –

Defined by what is not there:

- No **tears**,
- No **death**,
- No **mourning**,
- No **crying**,
- No **pain**.

They've passed away.

25

Revelation Chapter 21

Vs. 7 - Defined by the **permanent adoption into God's family**.

Cf. Romans 8:14-17

Vs. 8 & 27 - Defined by **those who are not there**:

Vs. 10–26 - Defined by **the most beautiful elements human language can convey**.
(vs. 18-21)

26

What Is Heaven Like? Revelation Chapter 22

Vs. 1-3 – An allusion to **the garden of Eden**, in the beginning... before sin.

Life without the curse. Genesis 3:14ff

The serpent, the earth, & all mankind.

Deuteronomy 28:15ff, all who turn away from God.

In Christ, **the curse of the law** could be taken away. **Galatians 3:13-14**

27

Revelation Chapter 22

Perfect life with God.

Lost in Eden - Restored in Heaven.

The "**river of life**" – Genesis 2:10

The "**tree of life**" – Genesis 2:9; 3:22;
Revelation 2:7

Note in Revelation 21 & 22 the **abundance of life**.

"Book of life" (21:27); **"water of life"** (22:1); **"tree of life"** (22:2)

28

Revelation Chapter 22

The Tree Of Life

- Immortality given by it. Genesis 2:9; 3:22
- Sin prevented man from access to it.
- Immortality must now be found in a different tree.

Acts 10:39 (ASV); Galatians 3:13 (NASB);
1 Peter 2:24 (ASV)

29

What Is Heaven Like?

- **A transformed spiritual body** (Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44)
- **A place of rest** (Revelation 14:11-13; Hebrews 4:1-11)
 - What does that mean? (Joshua 11:23; 21:44-45; 23:1 – cf. Acts 9:31)
 - Freedom from conflict & struggles. Prosperity.
 - Did not mean cessation from all activity.
- **Eternal** - timelessness vs. eternal amount of time. **"we shall *always be* with the Lord"** (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

30

What Is Heaven Like?

- **A home** – a place to belong. We talk about “going home.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-9)
- **A city** – part of a community of faithful believers – the “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- **A garden** – a place to work and serve. (as in Eden – Genesis 2:15)

31

What will we do in heaven?

We will serve our heavenly Father without distraction. Revelation 22:3

We are to be **“in charge of many things”** Matthew 25:23

We will **rest from our labors**

32

“Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master.” (Matthew 25:23)

We've got to **believe** to enter that rest (Hebrews 3:19-4:11)

Revelation 22:14 – need our **robes washed by the blood of the Lamb.**

Only to those who **endure** -(Hebrews 10:35-39)

2nd Peter 1:11 – entrance to be **abundantly supplied.**

33

How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Hear the word of God
(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message
(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins
(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ
(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins
(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient
(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

34