

home, if you've received Christ as Savior. What was growing on each side of the river? Of what value are the leaves of the tree of life? What does this passage tell us about God? How can you honor the life God created?

*Again, ask God to help you live joyfully in light of the promised land of the new heaven and earth!*

## Friday

Please read Revelation 22:7-21. What is one reward you remember getting? What promise did Christ make in verse 7? What invitation is given by the Spirit and the bride? What is involved in responding to God's invitation to come to him? What do we know for sure about Christ's return? (verse 20)

*Ask God to help you live in light of this great truth! What can you do to bring someone to heaven with you?*

## Saturday

Please read Isaiah 65:17-25 to be ready for tomorrow's message.

*Ask God to prepare your heart so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth as you come together with your brothers and sisters tomorrow. Pray for both of our Sunday services, that they will clearly show God's grace and truth to all who attend.*

## Resources

The following books are recommended for further study:

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (comprehensive look at what the Bible teaches about heaven and answers to many FAQ)

Billy Graham, *Facing Death and the Life After* (practical focus on handling grief)

Gary Habermas and J.P. Moreland, *Immortality: The Other Side of Death* (builds the scientific case for the afterlife)

Steven Lawson, *Heaven Help Us!* (Revelation's descriptions of heaven)

Erwin Lutzer, *One Minute After You Die*

Joseph M. Stowell, *Eternity: Reclaiming a Passion for What Endures*

Joni Eareckson Tada, *Heaven*

# The Reality of Heaven

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, May 21, 2017

*"If then you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking** the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."* Colossians 3:1-4 (NASB77)

## Why has the reality of heaven dimmed?

**Distorted** \_\_\_\_\_

**Distractions** \_\_\_\_\_

**Doubts** \_\_\_\_\_

## What can I look forward to in heaven?

**Real** \_\_\_\_\_

*"...we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."* 1 John 3:2

*"...the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed..."* 1 Corinthians 15:52

*"...we will be caught up **together with them** in the clouds... and so we will be with the Lord forever."* 1 Thessalonians 4:13

**Real** \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said: *"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."* John 14:2

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth..."* Revelation 21:1

**Real** \_\_\_\_\_

*"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.'"* Revelation 21:3



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## When heaven is real to me:

### My perspective on \_\_\_\_\_ changes

Jesus said: "...Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy..." Matthew 6:19

### My perception of \_\_\_\_\_ changes

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household." Ephesians 2:19

### My perseverance through \_\_\_\_\_ changes

"Therefore we do not lose heart... for our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." 2 Corinthians 4:16

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Romans 8:18

"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. He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" Revelation 21:4

## How do I get to heaven?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God**—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Believe and Receive!

## Daily Meditations

Daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic.

### This week's memory verse:

"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." Revelation 21:4

### Monday

What point or points stood out to you from the message? Why do people not think about heaven? What are they missing? What are you missing? Please read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. What was the source of Paul's teaching about what happens to those who die? (verse 15) What sequence of events will signal the Lord's return? How will the Lord return? (verses 1-3) What hope can you gain from these verses?

*Thank God that Jesus Christ will return some day and that he will be revealed at last in all his glory! Ask him to help this fact make a difference in your life today.*

### Tuesday

Please read Revelation 20:11-15. Who will be involved in the final judgment? On what basis will people be judged? What will happen to those whose names are not found in the book of life? How should the certainty of future judgment determine the way we live now? The key question: How does a person get his or her name recorded in the book of life? (See John 6:28-29)

*If you haven't yet done so, ask God today to write your name in that book. You can pray a prayer like this: Father, as much as I understand, I place my trust in you and I now give my life to you. I accept Christ's atoning sacrifice for me on the cross. I want to live right through the power of your grace from this day forward. Thank you for your forgiveness and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.*

### Wednesday

Please read Revelation 21:1-27. In his vision, what did John see coming out of heaven? How did the voice describe the new world to come? How does this description help give a new perspective to the things we experience now?

*Ask God to help you remember the glories that await!*

### Thursday

Please read Revelation 22:1-6, a further description of your eternal