

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Let Me Answer That - Part 1"

INTRODUCTION

Observation: Asking questions are a wonderful means of teaching and growing in knowledge.

- In the Gospel records, there are **103** questions directed at the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13** – But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep,

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DOCTRINE OF HEAVEN:

1. Why is it important to study heaven?

- Because the Bible tells us a lot about the future (1/4 of the Bible is prophetic).
- Because of a great deal of ignorance about things to come.
- Because heaven is not only our final destination, it is also our present orientation.

2. What is heaven?

- Heaven is a place as real as Orange County. (John 14:2 – I go to prepare a place for you).
- If heaven is a place, then you can go there.

"Morality will keep you out of jail. Only the blood of Jesus will keep you out of hell." (De Courcy)

3. Where is heaven?

Three Heavens Presently:

1. **Immediate Heaven** – the atmospheric heaven where birds fly.
2. **Stellar Heaven** – where stars and moons or and planets orbit.
3. **Third Heaven** – the abode of God where angels serve (2 Corinthians 12:2).

- Right now, if we were to go to heaven, we'd go up, but in the future heaven will come down.

4. What happens to Christians when they die?

- 2 Corinthians 5:1-8 teaches us to be "away from the body" is to be at "home with the Lord."
- Death is separation, but death is not annihilation, extinction, or reincarnation.
- There is no such thing as **purgatory** in the Bible.

5. Will we know each other in heaven?

- The answer is yes: **Matthew 8:11** teaches that in the kingdom of heaven many will sit down with "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob".

6. Will I be married in heaven?

- There will not be one on one marriage in heaven (Matthew 22:29-30). There will be one marriage between Christ and the church (Revelation 19:10).

7. Will there be sex in heaven?

- Marriage and the sexual act point to something far more profound that will find fulfillment in the marriage of Christ and the church.

8. Will there be animals in heaven?

- My pet will most likely not be in heaven because there is no doctrine of resurrection for animals anywhere in Scripture.
- Animals will likely be in heaven because they were part of the first creation and God pronounced them good (Genesis 1:20-25).

Sermon Application Questions

March 8, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip noted that asking questions is a wonderful way of teaching and growing in knowledge.

There were eight questions about heaven that were answered in this sermon. Were any of these questions especially meaningful to you?

Do you have any additional questions about heaven that can be answered in a future session?

2

It was said of the Puritan Richard Sibbes that "Heaven was in him, before he was in heaven." In fact, he was known as the "Heavenly Doctor" due to his godly preaching and heavenly manner of life.

How does Sibbes' example stir us up to pursue a life of godliness? How does the doctrine of heaven change the way that we live our lives today?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

John 14:1-6

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2 Corinthians 5:1-8

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Catholic church teaches the doctrine of purgatory. According to their teaching, purgatory is a place where believers in Jesus Christ who died with unforgiven venial sins go to be purged. They'll never go to hell, but over time they'll eventually make it to heaven.

2

Read Hebrews 10:14 in light of this teaching. How does the Catholic doctrine of purgatory diminish the perfect sacrifice of Christ? What are some other Bible verses that you would use to refute this teaching?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pastor Philip exhorted us in this sermon, "Heaven is not just our final destination. Heaven is also our present orientation."

1 How can you "adjust your compass" today to orient your life towards your heavenly destination?

What are some ways that you can invest in priorities that have eternal value?

The real pandemic we need to worry about is the virus of sin that has been transmitted from Adam to every succeeding generation. This is a virus that is mortal and deadly in all cases apart from the grace of God. The medicine of the gospel – the precious blood of Jesus – cleanses us from all sin and prepares us for everlasting life. Jesus said, "do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28). We are reminded that our generation is so focused on their body and their temporary life that the greater threats are being marginalized and minimized. The church is called bring others back to the truth of Scripture. (Summarized from Pastor Philip's pastoral prayer, March 8, 2020).

2

How does this perspective encourage us in the midst of all that the culture is talking about today?