



Nowhere does the Bible speak of going to heaven, but from start to finish the Bible tells the story of heaven coming. It is God's grand redemption plan from ages past, and it changes how we deal with the present when we know that Home is Coming!

**These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.**

**1** Rick began by reminding us that **"Heaven is the real deal."** Most views of heaven divorce the physical from the celestial and see heaven as a place of *"fluffy clouds, floating spirits, and endless church."* Why is that view dangerous and what role does Satan play in the existence of this view? Follow up: How does he like to slander these three realities (God's person, God's people, and God's place)?

**2 OUR HOME IS a real place...** *One result of dualism's influence is the common tendency to spiritualize all of scriptures heavenly images.* **Read Hebrews 11:16, Revelation 21:10, and John 14:1-2.** What stands out to you about the descriptions of heaven in these verses? What is significant about the different ways they describe heaven?

**3 WHERE WE WILL HAVE real bodies...** *Our hope is not disembodied bliss but restored physical existence.* **Read Romans 8:23 and Philippians 3:20-21.** Why does God care so much about our bodies? What does this say about how we steward them now? Follow up: With that in mind how does **2 Corinthians 5:2-5** encourage you today?

**4 AND BE real active.** *We will eat, laugh, dance, work, play in a real place with real bodies...* What surprises you and/or excites you about that statement? How does it make you feel to know that we will continue to learn (see **Ephesians 2:6-7**) and to work/reign (see **Revelation 22:5**). In what ways is

our work now practice/training for our work then? Follow up: **Read Matthew 25:14-21.** How does the way we handle our responsibilities now impact the responsibilities we will have then? Why is that significant?

**5 SERVING A real Jesus...** *The foundation of our faith is the bodily resurrection of Jesus.* **Read Luke 24:39.** Why is the bodily resurrection of Jesus so important and how does it impact not only our future resurrection but how we should live in the present? Follow up: Rick noted that *"God's ultimate goal is not our salvation. Our salvation is the means to God's ultimate goal: fellowship."* (see **Revelation 21:3**). Why is that distinction so important and how does it bring you joy today?

**6 WHO WILL REWARD what's real.** *While heaven is not a reward, in heaven all that was done for Christ will be rewarded.* **Read Ephesians 6:8.** How does it make you feel knowing that all good work done now will be rewarded then? Follow up: What are some intentional choices you need to invest in now with that in mind?

**7** Rick closed by reminding us, *"Life will constantly tempt us to misspend our energies and affections on that which has no eternal significance."* How has this been a struggle for you recently? Follow up: What is one way being reminded that "Heaven is for real" can help you "seek first the kingdom of God" more today?

