

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9



REFLECT

1. Think back over the last day or week. What are you most grateful for? What are you least grateful for? Take note of a few moments of significance.

2. Where have you seen God? What is He showing you about Himself? After reflecting, thank God for His gifts to you and for all the ways He is drawing you to Himself.



DISCUSS

1. How often do you think about Heaven? Where have your beliefs about Heaven come from?

2. Pastor Mike argued that Heaven is where God is, that there is a biblical distinction between an intermediate state and an eternal home, that Heaven is a real and physical place, and that Heaven will be Earth remade and restored.

- Were any of these ideas new or surprising to you?
- How do you respond to this understanding of Heaven?

3. Read John's description of the indescribably glorious New Jerusalem in Revelation 21.

- What details stand out to you?
- What captivates you most about this vision of Heaven?
- Where do you see Jesus in this description?
- Jesus says in v. 5, "I am making everything new!" Is there an area of your life where you need this hope today?



LIVE IT OUT

1. How does Jesus' place in Heaven compare to His place in your life?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-58. How is God calling you to "give yourself fully" to His work (v. 58)?

3. Respond to the passage from N.T. Wright's *Surprised by Hope* below. How do God's promises of eternal life relate to the Church's and the Christian's mission in the here and now?

When the church is seen to move straight from worship of the God we see in Jesus to making a difference and effecting much-needed change in the real world; when it becomes clear that the people who feast at Jesus's table are the ones in the forefront of work to eliminate hunger and famine; when people realize that those who pray for the Spirit to work in and through them are the people who seem to have extra resources of love and patience in caring for those whose lives are damaged, bruised, and shamed, then it is not only natural to speak of Jesus himself and to encourage others to worship him for themselves and find out what belonging to his family is all about but it is also natural for people, however irreligious they may think of themselves as being, to recognize that something is going on that they want to be part of.[1]



PRAYER

[1] N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (New York: HarperOne, 2008), 267.