

FINAL DESTINATION

SERIES THEME: To better understand and be inspired by a Biblical view of Heaven

TODAY'S THEME: Have you thought about heaven lately?

TODAY'S TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:16-17

"...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus..." -- v.9-10

I. _____ FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

- A. To Gather His _____
 - > Jesus has been longing to gather his people
 - Matthew 23:37; Luke 13:34
 - > His return accomplishes his desire
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:1

- B. To _____ His People
 - > Those who are living and those who have already died
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
 - > Jesus' heart for his people is strong
 - The Church is his Bride!

- C. To Reign And To _____
 - > Jesus will take his rightful place as Lord of all
 - Revelation 11:17
 - Every knee will bow

- D. To _____ The Heavens And The Earth
 - > God has new things in store for his people
 - Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1
 - Jesus loves his creation and He will redeem and remake it

- E. To Bring His Full _____
 - > To wipe out evil, reverse the curse of sin, raise the dead
 - Luke 21:27-28
 - When we pray and cast out evil, heal someone, or perform miracles in His name, we are a sign of what's to come

II. HEAVEN _____

- A. Drudgery Or Joy?
 - > Harps and clouds and robes?
 - > Is heaven an eternal church service?
 - We often have an _____ view of heaven
 - > Our heart's desire is for the original plan of God

"A resurrected life in a resurrected body with the resurrected Christ on a resurrected earth." -- Randy Alcorn, Heaven, p. 7

- B. Disinterest Or _____?
 - > Why isn't heaven discussed more often?
 - > Not much teaching on the subject
 - Does the Bible not have anything to say?
 - > The work of _____

> Our enemy slanders three things:

God's _____,

God's _____, and

God's _____ → heaven

- Revelation 13:6

> He absolutely hates the final destination of God's people!

C. Naturalism Or Supernaturalism?

> Naturalism is the belief that the world can be fully understood in _____ terms, without any spiritual or supernatural explanations

> Our lives on this world are just a copy or a shadow of the true life found in Christ, and this earth is just a dim reflection of the heaven that is to come (See C.S. Lewis' The Silver Chair)

CONCLUSION:

How does thinking about heaven affect us right now?

It inspires _____!

- We have a coming king
- There will be redemption of all wrongs
- We have a place waiting for us _____ this life
(not clouds and harps!)
- We are motivated to turn from idols and to serve the living God
- _____ need to know about our hope!

"Therefore encourage one another with these words."

- 1 Thessalonians 4:18