

May 3/4, 2008

*Life after Death Series*

## **Why Heaven Matters Today**

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

Pastor Bryan Clark

Patti and I went to see the movie *Expelled*. It's kind of a documentary where they interview various scientists; young actors are the actual scientists. And in the course of one interview, one scientist made it very clear that he did not believe that there was a God, did not believe there was a Heaven or a Hell. Understood all that goes with that and basically said he was okay with that.

We were told that in the past he had struggled with a brain tumor that had been removed. But, the interviewer asked him a question, given what he believes, what would he do if the brain tumor returned? And his answer was, "I probably would take a gun and blow my brains out." We were told afterward that shortly after the interview, he was diagnosed that the tumor had returned.

The reality is, if there is no God, if there is no life after death, then life is a lottery. And you get one shot, you get one ticket, there are no do-overs and the best we can say to people that struggled, to people that suffer, the people who's lives are less than what they always thought they would be is, "Sorry, you drew a losing ticket". That's why there is so much despair in our world. But, if Jesus literally, physically, bodily rose from the dead that first Easter morning, everything changes. Everything changes.

If you're visiting with us this morning, this is the last week of our series on Heaven. We started on Easter weekend reminding ourselves of the historical facts of the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus from the grave and the basis by which we believe we too, not only will experience life after death, but that we will experience a literal, physical, bodily resurrection and that is the foundation for our theology about Heaven.

We went on and talked about what we referred to as this intermediate stage, this intermediate Heaven; that if I was to die today, that's where I would go. It's an intermediate stage because it's awaiting the new Heaven and the new Earth, it's awaiting the resurrection. It's kind of this intermediate stage for, right now, waiting for the ultimate victory.

Mark talked to us about the reality of a hell, of an eternal hell. If we're going to talk about life after death, part of that is Heaven, but part of that is the sobering reality then, there is an eternal hell and Mark shared that with us. Then we spent two weeks talking about the idea of a new Heaven and a new Earth and the reality that one day Jesus is going to redeem back the Earth and all creation and we will live our eternity with Him.

Now, when we talk about the new Heaven and the new Earth, one question is, will we worship Jesus? I remember when I was growing up, I heard that Heaven was going to be that we will worship forever. And I remember as a child thinking, that that sounded better than the other place but not by much. (laughter) Because it sounded like we were going to be stuck in a worship service forever. (laughter) You know, when you're ten years old that's not the best news you could hear. (laughter)

Will we worship Jesus? Absolutely yes, Jesus will be front and center as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But, when we talk about being with Jesus and worshiping Him forever, it's important that we don't translate that into an eternal worship service.

That's the same problem we have now, we tend to isolate worship down to one hour a week, instead of understanding, worship is a way of life. Everything I do everyday ought to be an act of worship. And that's what we're talking about. Will there be times when the people of God gather together a million strong and sing worship in the presence of Jesus? Absolutely yes! And those will probably be the highlight moments.

But, certainly it won't be limited to that. One scholar says, according to Genesis one and two, God made us for relationships, work and worship. That's a good way to think about Heaven but think of it all as worship. We will experience relationships with one another, with meeting new people, that will be part of the value system of Heaven and that is a form of worship. We will also work in the kingdom, there will be governments, there will be work, there will be meaningful things to do and that will be an expression of worship as well as what we do in the presence of Jesus.

It was interesting to me in reading through quite a number of books about Heaven, every single book I read addressed the question, *will Heaven be boring?* And I thought, what have we done to this topic that that is such a pressing question; that somehow we've made it seem like something that will be painfully boring. I can assure you that will not be the case. But, we need to think of worship in the Biblical sense of going beyond just the service to the many things that we will do in the presence of Jesus.

Now there's probably some people who would say, *you know, why do we need to speculate and try to figure all this stuff out? You know, when I die, I'll get there, we'll figure it out then.* Well, there's a problem with that and the problem is this. If your theology of Heaven is bad, it dramatically affects how you live your life on this Earth today. If we are thinking that Heaven is this experience that is somewhere out there in some mystical place and we are a disembodied spirit just kind of hanging around in the presence of God. That is a very Gnostic view, it's not a Biblical view, it's a Gnostic view.

And what that creates within us is exactly what the Gnostics believed and that is that this world is bad and I can't wait to get out of here, therefore, it creates this escapism mentality. Rather than understanding the truth of Heaven, what I'm left with is *salvation is the ticket to Heaven and I can't wait to get out of here and leave this troubled Earth behind!* And if I believe that, then it dramatically affects the way I view this world, the people in this world, it affects the way I live my life every single day.

But, if I understand that, in reality, God is redeeming all creation back to himself and that He is going to make a New Heaven and a New Earth and rather than this Earth being annihilated, it's going to be redeemed and rather than an emphasis on, "I'm out of here!", there's an emphasis on Jesus coming back and establishing His eternal kingdom, it changes the way I think.

Now, I would acknowledge to you there are occasional comments in the New Testament that have to do with something like, "absent in the body, present with the Lord." And the context of those comments are usually someone like Paul who's facing imminent death and yes, it will be a wonderful thing to be in the presence of Jesus.

But, you have to balance that with the overwhelming focus of the New Testament on the return of Jesus. If I die today, I understand, I will be absent from body, present with Jesus and that will be a wonderful thing. But, I also realize that my brothers and sisters will still be struggling, people will still be dying, the suffering will continue. So, the overwhelming emphasis of the New Testament is not on just me getting out of here. It's on Jesus coming back and finally redeeming all creation where those wonderful words in Revelation 21 are spoken, "It is done!"

That's the longing of the New Testament, not "I'm out of here" but, "He's coming back!" And the mission is finished and accomplished. With that in mind I invite you to turn with me to Romans Chapter 8. I want to take us back to a few passages that we've already looked at just to pick up a few thoughts as we bring this to an application this morning.

We looked at Romans Chapter 8. We looked at verse 11 that reminds us, that even though the Spirit of God has given us life, we have been changed, we have been redeemed, we're still waiting in hope that this mortal body will one day be changed into an immortal body. There's still this awaiting of the final return of Jesus, the final resurrection, the New Heaven and the New Earth. We went down then to verse 18 and following and reminded ourselves that, right now, all creation is eagerly anticipating the redemption of Jesus Christ. That when God created in Genesis Chapter one and two, God said, "This is good!" God has never changed His mind about that. The devil has not so messed up everything that God's going to annihilate it and start over.

Rather, God is going to redeem all creation back to Himself. God is ultimately going to win, mission accomplished! And so there is this reminder that we have been set free in the power of Jesus and we are, in essence, a symbol or a model of ultimate redemption and all creation looks at us and long for the freedom that we have experienced in Christ. Pick it up in verse 21:

**that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.** (\*NASB, Romans 8:21-25)

Clearly Paul is saying that the creation is personified and it looks at the freedom that we have experienced in the Spirit and longs for that day when creation will also be set free from the curse of the bondage of sin but goes on to remind us that while we've experienced the life of the spirit, our body still groans because the mission has not been completed. We're still living out this new Heavenly life in a Earthy body, therefore our body groans and creation groans, it even goes on to say the Spirit groans as we long for that day when Jesus finally brings in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

Therefore, we have, in hope, been saved, past tense, we have been saved but our salvation is in hope. Meaning that we have experienced the life of the spirit today but there is still a hope that there is more to come. The New Heaven and the New Earth, the redemption of all creation, the changing of our body from that which is corruptible to that which is incorruptible.

We talked about it from Philippians Chapter 3, the reality that the moment we trust Christ as Savior, we are citizens of Heaven but living out our citizenship on Earth. The Church is a colony of citizens of Heaven living out our heavenly citizenship on Earth. Therefore, in a very real sense, we as the church have brought the future into the present to give this world a glimpse of what is to come.

That's what the text is saying, all creation looks at what the Spirit has done in us and longs for that same freedom. But, we ourselves, groan with the reality the mission is not accomplished yet, that we are still awaiting the final resurrection to change from the mortal body to an immortal body. But in these days we are to live out a picture, a glimpse of what is to come through our lives today.

With that in mind, go to 1 Corinthians Chapter 15. We've spent a considerable amount of time in this chapter, worked our way through most of it. It was in this chapter that Paul makes his argument for the historical resurrection of Jesus and then promises that Jesus is the first fruit, He's the pledge, He's the promise of what is to come. He is the promise that, we too, will be literally, physically, bodily raised from the dead. I'm going to pick it up in verse 50.

**Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)**

This lines up very closely with Romans Chapter 8. There is the promise that one day, this perishable will put on imperishable, this mortal will put on immortality. I'm looking forward to the day when my body no longer groans, but I have been resurrected and changed for the eternal Heaven and Earth.

After this magnificent chapter, that for a New Testament chapter is very long and very full, the concluding statement is "***therefore, go sit on a hill and wait***". That's not what it says! If we buy into this escapism, that's what we do, *I'm just waiting to get out of here*. But, if we understand what he has said, if we understand the New Heaven and the New Earth, if we understand what God is doing and if we understand that we as citizens of Heaven are living out that Spirit changed life on Earth, we are actually getting a glimpse of what is to come, we are getting a glimpse of the new creation.

Therefore, we give the world just a peek, just some sort of symbol of what is to come as part of our witness. Therefore, rather than sitting on a hill and waiting to get out of here, we roll up our sleeves and we get to work. Our assignment is to bring God's eternal Heavenly kingdom to Earth today through the power of the resurrected Jesus.

Therefore, we begin now bringing the New Heaven to Earth through us as His new creation. So, his conclusion at the end of this magnificent chapter is, “**therefore, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, we have work to do.**” That’s a completely different mindset than, “*I’m out of here*”.

Understand then what he is saying. We go all the way back to Genesis 1 and 2 and God brought Heaven to Earth in His creation and God said, “This is good.” Sin, once again, divided Heaven and Earth, it was brought back together in a magnificent way in the person of Jesus, God in the flesh, Heaven together with Earth again. Jesus died for the sins of the world which is what separated Heaven from Earth, was buried and rose again and on that first Easter morning there in the garden, Jesus was the beginning of the new creation. Jesus had made it possible for Heaven and Earth to come together again.

And every person that trusts Jesus as Savior becomes a citizen of Heaven, our sins are forgiven and once again, Heaven and Earth come together so we, as citizens of Heaven now begin to live out the life on Earth. Therefore, we are busy about the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, bringing the future into the present as a promise or a pledge or a glimpse of the reality of what is to come. In order to understand this a little bit better, I invite you to go back to 1 Corinthians chapter 3.

You may have noticed that we really have not addressed the topic of rewards as part of this *Life after Death Series*. The reason for that is I’m just really confused on that topic. Have been for years, have read all the books, I’m just not convinced in my own spirit we understand the New Testament concept of rewards. Therefore, since I’m confused about it, we just avoid it! (laughter) But, we’re working on it and we’ll try to get to it at a future date.

But, if you look at 1 Corinthians chapter 3 and understand what’s being said in this particular passage, in the context, it’s quite thought provoking. Pick it up in verse ten.

**According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.** (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

Now, the challenge is always, what does the Bible mean by reward? In this particular text, it’s very clear that the reward is something other than our salvation. There may be some text where that is in focus, but here he clearly says that some will suffer loss but still will be saved. So, obviously, the loss is something other than salvation; therefore, the reward is something other than salvation. So, we try to figure out what does that mean?

If you go back up, what he’s saying is the foundation for this new Heaven and Earth, this foundation for the new creation was laid in the person of Jesus Christ, obviously referring to His death, burial and resurrection. Therefore, that foundation cannot be laid again, it’s a one time, unique foundation. We are called to be part of serving God, building for His Kingdom and we build upon the foundation that’s already been laid. Therefore, he says, those people, who in this life, build

with wood and hay and straw, will see that consumed by the fire. But, those who build with gold and silver and precious stones will see those remain.

Now, it's interesting to think about what he's saying here. Is it possible, and I would suggest to you that this is correct, that when he's talking about the fire, what he's talking about is the fire that Peter talks about in II Peter 3, the fire at the end of this age that is the final purging preceding the redemption of this Earth into the New Heaven and the New Earth. That's the imagery of God's judgment. The very final thing before the transition into the New Heaven and the New Earth.

Therefore, those things that were done today, in the power and the name of Jesus go through the fire and emerge as gold, silver and precious stones. Those things that were done purely for the sake of this world are consumed and gone forever. One has to note the similarity between what Paul says here, **gold, silver, precious stones** with John's description of the New Jerusalem and the walls of the city as **gold and precious stones**.

Is it possible that what Paul is saying here, and I would suggest to you that it is, that what you do today, in the power and name of Jesus in some mysterious way that we cannot fully understand, has some sort of a linkage to the New Heaven and the New Earth to come. And the reward is that it remains. Something remains, that's what he clearly says. And I would suggest to you that on the other side, in the New Heaven and the New Earth it is very possible that you may look at something that you were a part of, something that you gave your money to, something that you did in the name and power of Jesus was a part of building the New Heaven and Earth today will remain in the New Heaven and the New Earth and at that moment the reward will not be self glory. I'm absolutely convinced none of the rewards will ever be self glory.

But the reward will be a very humble realization that in the power of Jesus, He allowed me to be a part of something that will last forever in the New Heaven and the New Earth to reflect His glory, what He did in me.

Now, when you start thinking about that, the ramifications to what we do on a daily basis are huge. Martin Luther said, after he finally understood his theology of the New Heaven and the New Earth, it made him want to go out and plant a tree. Do you understand what he's saying by that? When we get away from this idea that it's all lost, it's all going to hell, who cares? We get this escapism, annihilation view and we're just out of here. But, when we realize that we have a calling based on the hope that is to come, to begin through the power of Jesus building for the Kingdom today, it changes the way we treat everything on this Earth. In some mysterious way there is a linkage from today till then in such a way that we will know we have been a part of something that lasts forever.

I invite you to turn one more time to Matthew 28, a text that's often referred to as the Great Commission and so it is. Familiar words but I'm wondering if there aren't a few words that are often passed by when we read this text. Pick it up in verse 16:

**But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** (Matthew 28:16-20)

Have you ever asked yourself the question, what does He mean by, “**All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth?**” We’ve been talking about the reality of the New Heaven and the New Earth as it goes all the way back to Genesis 1 and 2, what God has always wanted is to bring Heaven and Earth together, that’s the point of His creation.

Jesus embodied that being God in the flesh and now having conquered sin which was the dividing point, Jesus now is the God-Man, had authority on Heaven and Earth to tell His disciples to go now and what- “*go into the world*”, not escape from the world but “*go into the world*”. Roll up your sleeves and begin building for the Kingdom now. I have authority on Heaven and Earth, I have authority to bring it together. And now as citizens of Heaven, living out on Earth, let’s begin building for the Kingdom now, in hope of what is to come.

He even says, “**and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” Jesus is saying, I’m going to be right there with you until Revelation 21, it is done, mission accomplished! This is one of the reasons why I’m convinced that in this intermediate Heaven, that the people in that intermediate Heaven have a significant awareness of what’s going on because we know that the Spirit’s focus is on Earth. Romans 8 says the Spirit groans with us.

We know that that’s the focus of Jesus’ attention, He says it here and in lots of passages, I’m going to be with you, head of the Church, building. And we know it’s the focus of the angels as they come and go and come and go as messengers of God. It’s hard for me to imagine that we’re somewhere else, sitting on a cloud, totally oblivious to everything that’s the attention of Jesus in the Heavens. There’s a reason why all of the Saints of the New Testament long for the return of Jesus. It’s not until that point where the battle is over and the suffering ends and God wins.

Now if you begin to think about this calling as citizens of Heaven into the world on the basis of Jesus’ authority in Heaven and Earth, it has significant ramifications to everything you do, everyday.

Let’s think about the concept of work. If this is really true, will there be vocations and callings and work in the New Heaven and the New Earth? Yes, there will be. There’s no reason to think there won’t still be scientists. We have to be careful that our view of Heaven when we talk about it being perfect, we’re not talking that we become God, we don’t suddenly become omniscient.

Ephesians 2:7, says we’ll always be learning and growing, why wouldn’t there be scientists that continue to discover the wonder of God’s creation and help us see the glory of what God has made? That’s a part of what it means to be made in the image of God and tending the garden. Why won’t there be architects and why won’t there be builders and why won’t there be teachers and professors and all these different vocations that we would understand but continue to live according to a certain vocation and calling?

If that’s true, then the assignment today for you as a believer is to bring the value system of the New Heaven and the New Earth to your vocation today. Ask yourself the question, what would that look like today? Rather than playing down to the curse, aren’t we called to play up to the promise? And so you start thinking about what would that be like for me in my vocation, my calling today; to live out a Heavenly, eternal value system? Think about the ramifications to social issues. Just go through the list? Do you think there will be homeless people in the New Heaven and Earth? If the answer is no, then let’s go to work on that today. Do you think there

will be poverty in the New Heaven and Earth? If not, then let's go to work on that today. Do you think there will be hungry children in the New Heaven and the New Earth? If not, then let's get to work on that today. Do you think there will be addictions in the New Heaven and the New Earth? If not, then let's get to work on that today. Do you think there will be despair in the New Heaven and the New Earth? If not, let's get to work on that today. Do you think there will be abortion in the New Heaven and the New Earth? If not, then let's get to work on that today.

You can just think through all of the different issues and understand that our calling as citizens of Heaven is to bring a glimpse of that world that lies in the future, into the present in such a way that that is our witness, and then we invite people on the basis of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus to be a part of what God is doing for eternity.

Will there be governments in the New Heaven and the New Earth? Yes, there will be. Revelations 22 talks about kings and nations. If that's true then aren't we called to make a difference in the government today? I have often warned us of the danger of taking on a Hannity and Combs like stance around the water cooler and arguing politics to the degree that people hate one another in the marketplace. But, I have never said, we as Christians should not be involved in the government. Some of you are called to that, to make a significant difference in a very difficult place.

But, again, rather than playing down to the curse, the calling is to play up to the promise. To bring a whole different value system to this Earth than what this Earth has known before. It's a picture of the promise to come. Think about the world of the arts, we reminded ourselves last week that God is very artsy. God is into beauty and aesthetics. God has called some of you and wired you as artists in such a way that your calling is to give us a glimpse of the beauty to come.

Can you just give us a peek of that world to come? Can you give us just the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the wonder and the glory that is yet to come? That's your assignment, that's your calling. Do you think it's possible that some of you could paint a painting in the name and power of Jesus that would actually be present in the New Heaven and the New Earth? I would suggest to you the answer is yes.

Some of you as musicians are called to help us get an understanding of what will it be like on that glorious day when we surround the throne of Jesus and millions of voices strong sing praises to Him. I want to know what that's going to be like and some of you have the calling to give us just a glimpse of that, give us just a hint of that through your ability to write and play music. You give us a glimpse of what is to come. Is it possible that some of you may write a piece of music in the power and name of Jesus today that will actually be sung around the throne of Jesus in the New Heaven and the New Earth? I would suggest to you the answer is yes, it remains.

You think about the ramifications to a landscaper, is it just mulch and dirt? Or, is the calling to capture a little bit of the wonder and beauty of the New Earth to come. Is your calling to give us just a glimpse of the wonder and the beauty and the majesty to come? Would you give us just a glimpse of that as a reminder of the hope that is to come? Think of the ramifications of this on the environment. If we buy into an escapism mindset then we rape the Earth and then we exit because who cares? But, if we believe that this Earth will be redeemed, then we have a

responsibility today to tend to the garden, to care for the environment, to treat it today as we will treat it then. The environment is always difficult to talk about these days because it's so politically charged, but if we could just get rid of all that and just act in a way that is responsible today, that would reflect the reality of the hope to come.

It is an amazing thing to process this concept of the hope that is to come and the reality that we are to be busy about that work today, giving people in our community and our world just a glimpse of the promise of what is to come. We in ourselves as the church are the first fruit, a pledge, a glimpse of what is to come, bringing the future into the present and then inviting people in despair and pain and suffering in this world to come to know the Savior who died for their sins in order that they too might be part of this magnificent world to come.

It is this magnificent promise that changes everything. As of that first Easter morning when Jesus stood in the garden as the resurrected Savior, everything changed. That was the first day of the new creation. It is the basis by which there is light in the midst of the darkness. The basis by which there is hope in the midst of the despair. The basis by which there is courage in the midst of the fear. The basis by which there is joy in the midst of the sorrow. It is the basis by which, no matter what life throws at us, there is a hope and a future more glorious than we can even begin to describe today.

*Our Father, we are thankful for the hope we have in Jesus. Or, that Jesus made it possible that Heaven and Earth could come together again. Lord, that we having trusted Jesus as Savior are citizens of Heaven living on Earth with the assignment of going to the world with the authority of Heaven and Earth and in the power of the Spirit building for the Kingdom, giving people just a glimpse of the world that is to come and inviting them through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus to become a part of it. Lord, it's the basis by which, no matter what we experience in this world, that the deepest part of our beings we are filled with hope, longing for that wonderful day to come. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

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May 4/5 , 2008

**Study Questions**  
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**I Corinthians 15:58**  
Pastor Bryan Clark

### **Opening Discussion**

1. What have you learned about life after death in this series?
2. Has your view of life after death changed? Where did your previous views of Heaven come from?
3. What would you list as the three most common misconceptions people have about life after death?

### **Bible Study**

1. Review: What is the significance of Easter for cultivating a right view of life after death?
2. Why is the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus important to our theology of life after death?
3. What is Paul's conclusion at the end of I Corinthians 15:58? Why?
4. How might I Corinthians 3:10-15 correlate to the idea of a new heaven and new earth? What does Paul mean by "remain"? Why did Martin Luther say his understanding of the new heaven and earth make him want to go out and plant a tree?
5. According to Romans 8:21, we as believers, are in some way a symbol, a picture of the redemption coming to all creation. In other words, in the believer, the future has come to the present in a symbolic way. Paul says the same when he refers to believers as "citizens of heaven" awaiting the return of Christ (Phil. 3:20). If this is true, then our "labor in Christ" (I Cor. 15:58) is bringing a heavenly value system to this world today as a glimpse of what is to come. What might this mean:
  - a. At work? What professions might continue in the new earth?
  - b. With social concerns
  - c. The environment
  - d. In the fine arts
6. How is this view of heaven different from one that creates an "escapism" mindset about this world?

## **Application**

1. What is the single most profound change in your thinking about heaven from this series?
2. How does this change in your thinking effect how you live today?
3. What one specific thing will you do differently now as a result of this series?