



▶ WHAT DOES PRAYER DO?



▶ IS MONEY THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL?



▶ WHAT ARE ANGELS?

January 29, 2012
Study 1

Sunday Morning

Discovery study

SEARCHING, SHARING, AND STUDYING REAL ISSUES OF FAITH TOGETHER WITH THE BIBLE AND DISCUSSION

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21

Is Heaven Real?

“Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.” This was the prayer I offered every night when I was a little girl. My prayer articulated my belief that there is a God in heaven who not only hears me when I pray but also has a special place for me when I die.

As I grew older my belief in heaven became challenged at times. As I experienced the loss of loved ones new questions arose for me. Is there really a place where the people go when they die? What if the person was not a believer? What about sin and forgiveness? Does everyone go to heaven?

These questions only generate more questions. What is heaven like? Will we have bodies in heaven? Will we

be reunited with loved ones? Will we be able to watch what happens on earth?

Heaven is often referred to in the Bible. Heaven is understood as the eternal dwelling place of the saints. The Holy Spirit descends like a dove from Heaven. Jesus ascends to heaven and at the time of the Rapture we are told He will descend from heaven to receive His saints.

Jesus warns His disciples that not everyone will go to heaven, but also asks his followers to pray that God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

As we try to do God’s will on earth, can we make “heaven on earth”? What will it take for us to bring this about? How do we live our lives in a manner that reflects heaven?

Heather Vais



A New Heaven and a New Earth

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:1-4



Asking Questions that Matter

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.
Thomas More

“We shall all stand under the final judgement of God, As we receive the divine verdict on our lives. Worthy of hell, eternal separation from God, our hope is for heaven, eternal life with God through the grace bestowed on us in Christ.”

10.3 Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief (Presbyterian Church in Canada)



Further Reflection

What happens to us at death?

Jesus said....

“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, that where I am you may be also.”

John 14:1-3

“Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands....Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

2 Corinthians 5:1, 5

Question for Reflection:

- How does the promise of heaven change the way we view earth?
- How do we get to heaven?

On Earth
As it is in
Heaven



"And I saw the river over which every soul must pass to reach the kingdom of heaven and the name of that river was suffering: and I saw a boat which carries souls across the river and the name of that boat was love.

Saint John of the Cross

We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low.

Bishop Desmond Tutu

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...”
Philippians 3:20