

In Light of Eternity Study Guide
(written by Sandi Swanson, EPM volunteer)

Read Introduction, and Chapters One and Two

Before you answer the following questions, ask God to enlighten you with a teachable heart, that you may learn what He desires for you to know about Heaven.

1. In the introduction Randy Alcorn quotes a startling confession from a pastor: “Whenever I think about heaven, it makes me depressed. I’d rather just cease to exist when I die.”

As you consider how you’ve thought about heaven in the past, before beginning this study, on a scale of one to ten, how much would you have agreed with this pastor’s viewpoint about heaven?

One = I imagined it as good since of course there won’t be any sin, but still thought of it as endless tedium, with everyone floating around in the clouds, strumming harps or singing, but not much else to do.

Ten = No, I believe heaven is an exciting place, an eternal adventure; I’m passionate about going there, eager to see what God has planned for me.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. Read Philippians 1:20-24. What was Paul’s perspective on heaven? (1:23)
2. According to the introduction, what’s the best explanation for how negative and unbiblical viewpoints regarding heaven have been able to grip so many of God’s people?
Pg. 2

Read John 8:44. Who is the father of lies? How good is he at lying?

Read Revelation 13:6 (NIV). What are the three specific things he lies about? Of these three, which have you thought most or least about?

3. Read Isaiah 14:12-15. Who was forcibly evicted from heaven?

How do you think he feels about Christians being given the home in heaven he was kicked out of?

Given his feelings, how might you expect him to try to influence us concerning the biblical teaching that heaven is our home?

4. Read Colossians 3:1-2. What is to be at the center of Christians’ hearts?

Take a moment from your study to ask your Heavenly Father to help and guide you to desire to “set your mind on the things above, where Christ is, not on earthly things.”

5. Read John 14:1-4. Jesus was talking as a groom to his bride-to-be. What did He promise her (us)? How much time would a bride-to-be spend thinking about her groom and their future home he's off building for her?

6. What do you think of Randy's statement, "If you lack a passion for heaven, I can almost guarantee it's because you have a weak, deficient, and distorted theology of heaven."?

What practical steps can you take to direct or keep your passions heavenward?

7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:5-8. Where is the Christian's true home?

8. The best part of Heaven is that we will be with our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. But, what does I Thessalonians 4:13-18 also tell us we can anticipate in heaven?

Does this passage comfort you? Why?

9. What pictures do you have of "home"?

How do they relate to the author's view of heaven? i.e. familiarity, comfort, refuge, where friends visit, etc. ("Our home in heaven is our real home. It will have all the good things about our earthly home, multiplied many times, but none of the bad.") pg. 11

10. a. Read Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 8:11. Will there be eating in heaven?

b. Read Luke 6:21b. What emotion will be expressed in Heaven?

11. After reading Chapter One do you agree or disagree: "Heaven is more a state of mind than a place." What passages back up your answer?

12. Read 2 Corinthians 4:18. Write this verse in the space below.

Ask God to revolutionize your life by applying this scripture to your daily living.

If time allows, encourage each other by sharing how you have helped a little one to know more about heaven—or how they have helped you (i.e. Randy and Nanci with Karina after her grandmother's "homegoing").

Lesson 2

Read Chapters Three and Four.

As you begin lesson 2 ask God to enable you to learn new insights about His Home.

1. What struck you about the personal spiritual journey of Durlyn?

Are you willing to invest yourself in someone who does not yet know or love your God or the place He has prepared for you?

As you study through this book on heaven, ask God for the opportunity and strength to minister to someone who does not yet know about Him or heaven.

2. Did you understand the author's explanation of God's grace, the gift of eternal life?

If not, refer to how to contact Eternal Perspectives Ministries****

3. Was it a new concept to you that you can convey love messages from others to their loved ones in heaven when you die?

4. In the *Dominion* excerpt in regards to colors, what was earth and what was heaven?

How did this comparison enhance your view of heaven?

5. Read Luke 16:19-31. How was Lazarus carried into heaven?

Do you take comfort in reading that the Scriptures teach that you will be carried into heaven by angels?

6. Read John 14:6 and Acts 4:8-12. Will people who do not know Christ be welcomed into heaven?

7. Read II Corinthians 11:14. What do you think about people claiming to see Jesus or an angel in a near-death experience?

8. What did you learn from the twin example or telling the Eskimo about the tropics example?

9. As you close your lesson today, take time to talk with God about your view of heaven. Ask Him to help you correctly imagine it and desire it. Refuse to allow Satan to rob you of the biblical teachings on heaven.

Lesson Three

Read Chapter Five and Six

Begin your lesson by seeking God's help in understanding the awesomeness of Heaven.

In the *Dominion* excerpt, what was Torel so surprised about?

Read the following Scriptures and note what they teach about heaven.

1. Who traveled to and from there? John 6:33; Acts 1:2; Matthew 28:2; Revelation 10:1; II Kings 2:11; 2 Corinthians 12:2; Revelation 11:12
2. What direction is heaven? Mark 6:41; Luke 9:51(NIV)

(It is described as “up”, but it could be “a place in the universe beyond the earth. Or it may exist entirely outside our space-time continuum.” Pg. 28

3. Read Hebrews 11:16, 12:22, 13:14. How is Heaven described?
4. What is its shape and measurement? Revelation 21:15-17

(Note: “The base of the city adds up to more than two million square miles. A metropolis of that size in the middle of the United States would stretch from Canada to Mexico and from the Appalachian Mountains to the California border.” Fifteen-hundred-mile height. That would be about 780,000 stories high.” Pg. 29

5. How might you answer a skeptic that says there can't actually be twelve gates of the city made of single pearls? (Revelation 21:21)
6. Read Revelation 21:19-21; 22:1-2 How else is heaven described?
7. In its millennial phase what animals are listed? Isaiah 65:25

What other animal is listed several times? Revelation 6:2-8; 19:11; 19:14; II Kings 6:17
8. Read John 14:2; Revelation 21:2. Who prepared the personal dwelling places for us?
9. What ethnic group will live in heaven? See Revelation 5:9; 7:9
10. Are heaven's gates closed? Revelation 21:24-25; 22:14
11. Read Luke 22:30 and Matthew 8:11. Will there be eating and drinking in heaven?
12. Read Isaiah 65:17-19; 66:22; Revelation 21:1. What did God create?
13. What does 2 Peter 3:10-13 teach about heaven?
14. Read Hebrews 11:8-10. To what was the man of faith, Abraham, looking forward?

Take some time to ask the architect and builder of heaven to increase your faith to view heaven as your true home. Ask God to help you to center on the eternal, not the temporary rewards of earth.

15. Read the following scriptures and note the five distinct phases of heaven.

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17; Revelation 12:4, 9

Luke 16:22 – one of two compartments of Sheol (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek), “the place of the dead.” Pg. 37

Ephesians 4:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:8 “Paradise seems to have been relocated from Hades, and where believers now come directly into the Lord’s presence at death.” Pg. 37

Revelation 20:7-10; Isaiah 65:25 “The millennial kingdom”

Revelation 21-22 The New Jerusalem

16. When will the resurrection of the believers occur? Revelation 20:11-15

17. Will the present heaven we enter at death be in its most glorious form? (See page 38)

As you end lesson 3 thank God for the new things you learned about heaven. May your heart be continually challenged to center on your real home this week.

ADDED ON:

In Light of Eternity

Chapter Four

Read Chapters Seven and Eight.

As you begin your study this week, ask the Occupier of Heaven to enlighten your walk towards your future home.

1. According to Chapter Seven, what is the most important thing about heaven? See Deuteronomy 26:15; Matthew 6:9
2. What more do you learn about heaven from Revelation 4:2-8; Isaiah 6:1-3?
3. Read John 6:42, Acts 1:11; Hebrews 8:5; 9:11, 23-24; Revelation 19:11-16. How is heaven related to Christ?
4. From Revelation 11:19, 15:5 what is the evidence that heaven is not just “spiritual” but a physical form?
5. Who else lives in heaven? See Luke 2:15; Matthew 28:2; Hebrews 12:22

See also: Revelation 4:4, 10-11; 5:6, 8; Luke 16:22, 25; Hebrews 12:23

6. What do you think about the statement: “Heaven will always be *our* home, because it is *God’s* home, and we are God’s family.
7. What is the most amazing aspect of heaven expressed in Revelation 22:3-4?

“Though we will always be creature and he Creator, in heaven we will be able to live with him and actually ‘see his face.’” Pg. 42

After reading the following Scriptures, fill in the blanks:

Because heaven is God’s home: I Peter 1:4 _____
 Luke 10:20; Hebrews 12:23 _____
 Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation
 20:15 _____

“Those who refuse to acknowledge the Master of the house are not welcome in it.” Pg. 42

8. Read Hebrews 11:16; Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:13. Where is the Christian’s true citizenship?

Take a few moments to allow this precious truth to sink in. This is NOT our true home! Ask God to help you better prioritize your daily living so it walks hand in hand with this truth from Scripture.

9. Because God’s home is our home: 2 Corinthians 5:20 _____

What do you think it means to be “an ambassador for Christ?”

10. For a proper mind set, read Hebrews 11:13-16.

Pray that God will use you this week to fulfill your role as an ambassador for Him, asking Him to help you live a life with your heart longing for your heavenly home!

11. How would you respond to the statement: In heaven we will dissolve into some Nirvana-like cosmic consciousness.

This notion is utterly false according to Scripture. The Bible indicates that people will be known by their names. (Read Matthew 8:11; Luke 16:25.) Mankind will also have private thoughts. (Read Revelation 2:17.)

12. Will we become angels in heaven?
13. Do you believe that children have guardian angels? See Matthew 18:10
14. Who is our prototype for our heavenly bodies? Jesus! Study the following Scriptures and write down five observations about a heavenly body.

I Corinthians 15:20, 48-49; Philippians 3:21; I John 3:2; Luke 24:15-16, 31; John 20:16.

15. From page 48 fill in the blanks: “In our resurrected state we’ll have real _____ bodies with _____ substance. (See I Corinthians 15:42-44.)

“We’ll be capable of _____, _____, _____,
and being _____.

16. Read John 20:19; Luke 24:31; Acts 1:9. What additional things did Jesus do in his resurrected body that we are not capable of doing in our present physical bodies?
17. In previous chapters we have already discovered that there will be eating and drinking in heaven. But what does Revelation 7:16 say?

(Even though they won’t be needed, we will be fully capable of enjoying God’s food and drink.)

18. Discuss the statement: “I think there are strong indications we may be given temporary pre-resurrection bodies.”

See Luke 16:19-26; Revelation 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:1-4.

19. Read Matthew 22:30. Will there be male and female in heaven?
(See also John 20:15)

20. Finish the chapter by commenting on the following section from *Dominion*.

“I find,” Dani says to Torel in *Dominion*, “that what I experience in heaven is largely an outgrowth of earth. The two aren’t disconnected. It’s not a new and separate reality as much as an extension of the old reality. My mind is the same, only sharper; my soul the same soul, only completely pure. My skills are the same skills, but less hindered in their expression.”

Take some time to reflect on and praise God for the awesome future and awesome place we will someday share with Him!

Chapter Five

Read Chapter Nine and Ten.

As you study this week ask God to help you understand the joy awaiting you in your future home.

1. What will be missing in heaven? Read Matthew 6:20; Revelation 14:13; 21:4; Romans 7:24.

2. Contrary to what the enemy would have us believe, fill in the blanks from sentences found on page 55.

“But _____ is not what brings us _____ ---It’s what _____ us of _____ . Sin isn’t what makes life _____ ; it’s what makes life _____ .”

“In heaven we will be _____ as Psalm 16:11 describes, “ _____ ” and “ _____ .”

How does this change your attitude about sin and about heaven being boring?

3. Review: What is the Most Important Fact about heaven?

Heaven is _____ , the dwelling place of the One who is infinite in creativity, goodness, beauty, and power.” Page 55-56

4. Read Luke 15:7, 10. What emotion will be expressed in heaven?
5. What kind of tears will be wiped away in heaven? (See Revelation 21:4)
6. Meditate on the following: “Our explosion of joy will coincide with the flowering of our righteousness. In that day, we will be amazed that people once imagined temptation and sin were the allies of excitement and fulfillment, when in fact they were their greatest enemies.” Pg. 57

If you truly understand this even today, how will you live differently?

7. Besides expressible joy what else will we find in heaven? Read I Corinthians 13:12. Will our mental capacities be sharper or duller in heaven?
8. Read Matthew 17:1-4. Who is recognized in this passage? What conclusion can you draw about heaven occupiers?
9. Read I Thessalonians 4:14-18. Does it teach about “memory wipe” or about the comfort of being joined together with Christ and others when Christ returns?
10. Read Revelation 4:9-11; 5:8-10, 13; 7:9-12; I Corinthians 15:52; and Psalm 149:3

What do these passages teach about some of heaven’s activities?

11. Read Isaiah 65:18-19. Who rejoices in heaven? Why is this important?
12. Once we arrive in heaven and are with God, what will we rest from? (Revelation 14:13)
13. Will we work in heaven? Read the following Scriptures: 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:21; 22:5; Luke 19:17-19; I Corinthians 6:2-3; Revelation 7:15; 22:3

14. From page 65 note some aspects of how work in heaven is described.

Take a few moments to contemplate how the lesson this week disregarded the notion of heaven being eternal passivity. With a joyful heart recommit yourself to continue to serve Him here as you anticipate your continued service to Him in heaven.

Chapter Six

Read Chapter Eleven and Twelve.

1. In chapter eleven Randy Alcorn writes of his phenomenal relationship with his friend, Jerry Hardin, who now resides in heaven. Have you ever experienced the “home-going” of a special person in your life? How did it affect you?
2. Chapter Twelve begins by contrasting Heaven and Hell. Write down which contrasts are the most meaningful to you.

3. According to Matthew 10:28; 13:40-42; and Mark 9:43, did Jesus talk about Hell?

If Jesus talked about the only two real, possible eternal destinations, heaven and hell, what reasons do we give for shrinking from doing so?

4. Pause right now and evaluate your life in respect to telling people the truth about hell.

Do you not want to appear as a fanatic?

Do you think you will lose friends or scare them away from God if you address hell?

The truth is that there *is* a hell, and the enemy blinds believers from talking about it!

5. Read Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:10, 12-15; and Luke 16:22-31. Write down your observations about hell from these Scriptures.

6. How does the truth in 2 Thessalonians 1:9 dispel the idea that Hell is just some “giant lounge where between drinks people tell their escapades on earth.”?

7. Read Ephesians 2:6-7 and record what we will continue to learn in heaven.

8. According to I Peter 1:12, who else long to learn even though they are already in heaven? What does this indicate about continuing to learn in heaven?

9. Ponder the following verses and note how beings in heaven interact with what is happening on earth.

Verses

Who

About What

Luke 15:7, 10

Revelation 6:9-11

Does this knowledge change the way you think about heaven?

10. What did you learn from this chapter? Take a few minutes to ask God to help you be faithful in sharing what you have learned with the lost world destined for hell; and with other believers to encourage them to live *in light of eternity*. If God impresses on your heart a specific person that you need to talk to, record their name below. Daily seek God to enable you to accomplish this desire this week.

Chapter Seven

Read Chapter Thirteen and Fourteen

Chapter Thirteen begins with the awesome experience of Randy Alcorn's missionary trip to the Soviet Union which included delivering Bibles. God did many miracles that trip. One outstanding event was how God had led a young Asian-looking man seeking Bibles twenty-six hundred miles to the very church that they had just brought Bibles!

1. In this context, Randy asks, "Will we forget these marvelous works of God once we die? What is Randy's conclusion? Page 84-85
2. In review what does I Corinthians 13:12 indicate about our understanding in heaven?

Note: Will we know everything? No! We are not God. "We will always be finite, even after we become glorified in heaven. The angels in heaven don't know everything. (Mark 13:32) Neither will we." Page 85

3. True or False: In heaven we'll have no remembrance of our lives on earth.

Read the following to see if you answered the above question correctly.

2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 12:36; I Corinthians 3:13-14; Revelation 19:7-8, 14:13.

4. What is given in heaven and for what? See Matthew 6:19-21; 19:21; Luke 12:33; 19:17, 19; I Timothy 6:19; Revelation 2:26-28.
5. What do you think about the following statements: "The prevalent belief that to remember any unpleasant things would automatically strip us of happiness in heaven is false. Heaven's joy is not dependent upon an erased mind, but a renewed mind." Pg. 87 See also Romans 8:18; Malachi 3:16.
6. According to Revelation 6:9-11 what do the martyrs in heaven clearly remember?

Because this is true, does this change your thinking in anyway? Are you challenged to live any differently?

7. One verse often cited as proof that we will not be able to remember our lives on earth is Isaiah 65:17. But take a closer look at the context. Read the previous verse, Isaiah 65:16. Who is the primary party doing the “forgetting”?

Note: God is saying, “I...will choose not to call to mind or to hold against us our past sins.”

8. Read Romans 5:6-8. How could we worship Christ for his amazing grace if we forget our utter rebellion and unworthiness that make his grace so amazing?!

9. Do the dead still pray for the living? This is an interesting and controversial question. Take a moment to look at who has died and continues to pray.

Verse

Pray-er

Romans 8:34

Revelation 5:8

Revelation 6:10

10. Read Ephesians 3:15. Who belongs to the body of Christ?

The believers in heaven and those on earth are still connected! And, from the verses above, they pray for the saints still on earth!

11. After reading Hebrews 9:27, fill in the blank. In contrast to the dead praying for the living there is no indication in Scripture that we should pray for the _____.

Conclude this lesson by pondering the awesome truth that there are believers in heaven praying for you! Perhaps this is a totally new concept to you. Ask God to open your understanding as you review this week’s lesson.

Also, you are now halfway through this study. Take time to review and reflect on three new concepts you have learned about heaven. Entrust God to enable you to boldly make changes in your daily living in order to store up treasures in heaven.

Chapter Eight

Read Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen.

This lesson reveals something challenging yet exciting. Pray that Heaven’s Creator will guide you in the teachings in this chapter.

1. How do you react to the statement, “People in heaven will know what is happening on earth.”

2. Read Revelation 18:20.
 - a. Who is addressing?
 - b. Who is addressed?
 - c. What are they to rejoice about?
3. Now read Revelation 19:1-5.
 - a. Who is rejoicing in heaven?
 - b. What are they rejoicing about?
4. After reading Revelation 19:11-14; 17:14, what indications are there from these Scriptures that heaven's occupants know what is happening on earth?
5. Read I Samuel 28:16-18. Who was brought back from heaven and what was he aware of?
6. Read Luke 9:30-31. Who was sent from heaven?
What were they aware of?
7. Read Hebrews 12:1. Who are the witnesses gone before us?
8. Read I Timothy 3:16; Luke 1:26-28; I Corinthians 11:10; Luke 15:7, 10.
Verse: Who sees things on earth? What did they see?

We know that angels see things on earth, so doesn't it seem logical that the saints in heaven, do as well?

9. How do you react to the following statement: "It wouldn't be heaven if we knew of bad things happening on earth, since we're promised there will be no more crying or pain in heaven."
10. Read Revelation 21:1-4. When will there be no more tears?

This text argues only for tearlessness in the new heaven and new earth after the Great White Throne judgment, and after "the old order of things has passed away."
11. Take another look at the passage in Luke 16:19-31. This is the account Jesus gave of Lazarus and the rich man at whose gate he begged. After their deaths, Abraham and Lazarus can see the rich man's agonies in hell.
12. Take a moment to allow God to reveal his truth to you. It is a common taught concept that there will be no tears in heaven. Scripture only backs up the truth that there will

be no tears in the new heaven and new earth. Look at the following Scriptures to see what emotions are expressed by Jesus.

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>About what</u>
Matthew 23:37-39		
John 11:33-36		
Acts 9:4-6		

Conclusion: The Acts 9 passage indicates that Jesus, now in heaven, can still feel for the saints that Saul is persecuting. If Christ can hurt for his people while in heaven, couldn't we do the same?

13. Read the excerpt from *Edge of Eternity* on page 101. What does the tapestry story teach you?

14. What does the Bible call death? See I Corinthians 15:26.

15. Read Randy's testimony to his father and his dad's eventual decision for Christ. Have you ever had the opportunity to share the gospel with someone who is fiercely independent like Randy's dad?

What excuses have you used not to witness to them? Have you been tempted to not tell the whole truth which includes talking about God's holiness and hell? In sharing the gospel we must include the bad news to fully appreciate the good news!

As you finish the lesson this week, have you struggled with any new truths? Pray that our amazing God will use these new truths to embolden you to share the good news before it is too late for your loved ones.

Chapter Nine

Read Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen.

As you begin your lesson, seek the Holy Spirit to teach you a proper perspective on good works in your life for now and for eternity.

1. Read Revelation 14:13. What will follow those who have died in the Lord?
2. According to Revelation 19:7-8, what will Christ's Bride wear?
3. What do you think about the statements: "When it comes to works, many of us Protestants have thrown out the baby with the bathwater. We've gotten the erroneous idea that to God "works" is a dirty word." Pages 111-112
4. Study Ephesians 2:8-10. Why are we created?
5. Read the following Scriptures and note your observations about good works:

Verses

Revelation 2-3
Hebrews 6:10
James 2:17-26
James 3:13
Matthew 25:21
2 Peter 1:10-11

Good Works

Note: Can works save us? Isaiah 64:6
What kind of works does Jesus condemn? Matthew 6:1-18

6. Fill in the blanks in the following statements.

“The Bible teaches _____ eternal judgments of _____ types of people—
_____ and _____. At the judgment of faith before God’s
“_____,” all true believers will _____ while all
_____ will fail, since their names are “_____”
_____ of _____.” (Revelation 20:11-15) Page 113

7. After reading Romans 14:10-12, how would you respond to someone who tells you,
“I am saved by grace...I can live anyway I want because God is a loving and
forgiving God!”

8. Review the following verses and record how they stimulate you to live in light of
eternity.

Verses

2 Corinthians 5:10
Colossians 3:25
I Corinthians 3:14-15
Hebrews 12:1

9. According to 2 Peter 1:3, what has God given us so that we can live godly lives?

10. Circle the right answer: It’s critical to understand that the judgment of believers by
Christ is a judgment of our SINS WORKS. Page 116 Note: Our sins are totally
forgiven when we come to Christ, and we stand justified in him (Romans 8:1).

11. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10. Underline what this verse is addressing.

Punishment for sins or the withholding of rewards for works not done that
should have been.

12. Fill in the blanks from statements on page 117.

“Salvation is about _____’s work for _____.” Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

“Rewards is about _____ work for _____.” 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation
2:26-28; 3:21

13. Although we do not look forward to suffering and persecution, what do these passages tell us about the eternal value of such?

I Peter 3:14-17

2 Timothy 3:12

14. How would you respond to the following statements: Even though I am a believer now, I fear that I can do something that God cannot forgive me.

“Even though I have messed up in the past, I look forward to doing future works for the Kingdom.” Philippians 3:13-14

15. Pause and reflect on this week’s lesson. Is there any area of your life that God is challenging you to repent and/or redirect your priorities in light of rewards and eternity? God is faithful and will equip you to do more good works for him!

Chapter Ten

Read Chapters Nineteen and Twenty.

Before you begin your study this week, ask God to help you be teachable about possessions and rewards. May this lesson bring clarity on how you can specifically store up treasures in heaven.

1. Why will our possessions and positions differ in heaven?

Matthew 25:23

Matthew 6:19-21

Luke 19:17-26

I Corinthians 3:12-15

I John 2:28

2. Crowns: Read the following Scriptures and write down the five crowns.

James 1:12; Revelation 2:10

I Corinthians 9:24-25

I Peter 5:1-4

2 Timothy 4:6-8

I Thessalonians 2:19; Philippians 4:1

3. What happens to these crowns?

Revelation 4:10-11

4. Respond to the following statement: “Glorifying God will always result in our greatest eternal good.”

If this is true then why are we bound up by material or fleshly desires which detract us from being devoted to eternal matters?

5. What do the following verse teach about crowns/rewards?

Revelation 3:11
I Corinthians 9:27
I Corinthians 3:15
Matthew 25:28-29
Matthew 6:5-6
2 John 8

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “People won’t own anything in heaven.”

What do these Scriptures teach us about things in heaven?

Luke 16:4, 9
Matthew 6:20
2 Corinthians 5:10
Colossians 3:24

7. What are some things believers will do in heaven?

Revelation 20:6
Matthew 25:21, 23
Luke 19:12-19
I Corinthians 6:2-3

8. After reviewing 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 3:21; and Revelation 2:26-28, fill in the blanks for a statement made on page 127

Conditions for reigning in heaven are clearly stated in several passages, with an emphasis on _____ and _____.

9. How will God reward us?

- a. Matthew 19:29
- b. Acts 17:31; Jeremiah 17:10; Genesis 18:25
- c. Hebrews 4:13; I Corinthians 4:5; Ecclesiastes 12:14
- d. I Corinthians 4:2, 5; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 3:11-14; Matthew 25:20-21; Ephesians 6:8; Mark 9:41; Luke 6:35; Matthew 25:14-23.

10. In what circumstance will you be richly rewarded? See Hebrews 10:35; Luke 6:23

11. What does the statement that Nick learns in *Edge of Eternity* personally mean to you, “There’s no such thing as a private moment.” See Matthew 12:36

Death talk does not have to be morbid, but a wonderful way to express the hope you have in Christ. May this lesson help equip you to be able to share with others about death and its doorway to their eternal destination.

1. Who has power over death? Ecclesiastes 8:8a
2. Have you ever taken the time to discuss with family members about the inevitability of your future death?

As believers we should periodically talk about death, reminding ourselves that we need to be prepared.

3. Are there second chances to live life over after death?
4. Fill in the blanks. "God's rewards are _____ and _____. Page 138
5. Read the following words from Chapter Twenty-one:
"At your death, the autobiography you've written with the pen of faith and the ink of works will go into eternity unedited, to be seen and read "as is" by angels, the redeemed, and God himself." Page 138
Do these words challenge you to live differently? If so, how?

6. Is it possible that there will be believers that will be saved, but only as ones escaping through the flames? See I Corinthians 3:15
7. Have you ever known someone who was dying? Did they change their priorities as their health declined?
8. Evaluate your week. What little or big decisions did you do that count for eternity? (i.e. read your Bible, prayed, went to church, shared your faith, gave your money to further God's kingdom.)
9. Read the following statement from Chapter Twenty-two. "Life's great disillusionments come as we try to force our round made-for-eternity heart into the rectangular hole of this temporal earth."

Does this word picture make sense to you? How does it challenge you to live differently?

10. What are the four eternal items listed on page 143?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Are you investing in the eternal, God's kingdom? Find a quiet time this week to sit back and think about your priorities. If they are not honoring God, confess them and get back on the track that leads to your true home.

Chapter Twelve

Read Chapters Twenty-Three and Twenty Four.

In this lesson your treasure will be discussed. Take time to ask God to reveal areas where you can grow in regards to your treasure and eternity.

1. What does Randy Alcorn cite as the reason the western church has been permeated by “prosperity theology,” the gospel of health and wealth?
2. Do you personally long for heaven? Review Hebrews 11:13-16 and 2 Corinthians 5:2
3. Read Colossians 3:1-2. Believers are to set their hearts on _____ where _____ is seated at the right hand of _____.
4. Have you ever been afraid of “being so heavenly minded that you were of no earthly good”? According to the author, this is another one of _____’s _____. Pg 144
5. Chapter Twenty-three challenges us to pick out some favorite Scriptures cited in this book and post them in a prominent place. If you have not already done so, take the time to choose the verses and display them today.
6. Chapter Twenty-three also challenges us to sit down with a loved one and talk about heaven. Write down who you shared heaven with this week.
7. Review Matthew 6:19-21 again along with I Timothy 6:7.

Write down one principle that you learned from these verses.

8. What do you think about the concept of sending your assets on ahead? What does this mean? Where are you placing your investments?
9. Write Matthew 6:21 on a piece of paper and place it in a prominent place in your life to remind you of this deep truth for investments.
10. Read Hebrews 2:15. Who came to free us from bondage to the fear of death?

Why then are so many Christians afraid to die?

11. Have you made this world your home? Take time to evaluate where you have buried your treasures. Are you storing your treasures in heaven or on earth?
12. Chapter Twenty-four begins by comparing gardens, sin, and tears. Fill in the blanks.

“God casted _____ out of a garden and ends with God _____ them into a _____.”

“The serpent who brings _____ and _____ at the beginning is _____ into the _____ of _____ at the end.

“Man’s _____ in Genesis 3 are _____ by Revelation 21.” Page 149

13. In the New Testament the Greek word for “sleep” is used fourteen times in reference to what? Read John 11:11; Acts 7:60; I Thessalonians 4:13.

14. Read the following verses and answer the question, “What immediately happens when a believer dies?”

2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Luke 23:43; Luke 16:19-31

15. Fill in the blanks from page 150. “Death for the Christian is God’s _____ from a place of _____ and _____ to a place of _____ and _____.

Have you ever viewed death like that before?

16. Paul referred to his death with a Greek word meaning, “to loosen.” Write down some of its usages in that culture for a colorful picture Paul was painting. Page 151

17. As a review, what is the last enemy? I Corinthians 15:26

18. Read Psalm 116:15. How is death different for the Lord’s saints?

19. Be reminded of Paul’s words, “To die is _____.” Philippians 1:21-23

20. Who will escort you into heaven?

Luke 16:22

Matthew 18:10

Hebrews 1:14

21. In completing this lesson, ponder D. L Moody’s deathbed statement: “Soon you will read in the newspaper that I am dead. Don’t believe it for a moment. I will be more alive than ever before.”

Do you truly believe it, too? Are you living your life in preparation for this time in which you will be “more alive than ever”? Ask God to help you to mature in your faith about his home.

Chapter Thirteen

Read Chapter Twenty-five and the Conclusion

The final chapter of the *In Light of Eternity* study begins today. Ask God to enrich your study with new insights about heaven and for you to be able to retain the knowledge so that you will increase the treasures for your eternal “dream house.”

1. After reading Alfred Nobel's story how were you challenged?
2. Read 2 Peter 3:10-13. What is going to happen to this present world?
3. According to Revelation 18, why is the world system of materialism called "Babylon the Great" worthless to follow?
4. Where is your dream house?
5. Application: Take your family to the city dump and show your kids the "treasures" that were once gifts, furniture and electronic gadgets now ravaged and useless. Read 2 Peter 3:10-14 and ask them what they will have done that will last for eternity.
6. After reading *In Light of Eternity*, what do you find wrong with Bertrand Russell's quote about death: "There is darkness without, and when I die there will be darkness within. There is no splendor, no vastness anywhere; only triviality for a moment, and then nothing." Pg. 158

7. From page 158, fill in the blanks. "Heaven is an _____ that exists _____ of anyone's _____ or _____ in it. Heaven is _____."

8. Do the Scriptures teach that there will be no more tears in heaven?

No! Read Revelation 21:4. Who will wipe away the tears?

Side note for those who are not yet Christians:

Confess and repent of your sin and ask his forgiveness. (Romans 3:23; I John 1:9)
 Express your belief in Christ and ask him to make you his child (Romans 1:12)
 Accept the gift of salvation he offers (Romans 6:23)

The moment you do, heaven becomes your home!!!

To sustain and guide you until you get there:
 Find a church home that teaches the Bible and worships Christ as God and Savior.
 Call us if you need help finding such a church (503-663-6481)

9. Final words, fill in the blanks: "As long as we're here in the parched wastelands of the present earth, God calls us to _____."

"What should we offer them? Exactly what they thirst for—a _____ and a _____."

_____ is that _____.

_____ is that _____.” Pg. 164

10. Review the other lessons and write down five things you learned about heaven in this study.

Thank God for the opportunity to study about heaven. Ask Him to help you have a renewed vision for your true home. Plan to share heavenly thoughts with at least one person this week.