

Submitted by an EPM reader, Jean Ann Mitchell (unedited)

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 1, Think About Heaven, Introduction

1. What are some popular misconceptions about our life in heaven?
2. What are your honest and human feelings when you attempt to conceive “eternity”, and heaven?
3. Misconceptions of heaven are not without purpose. John 8:44 and Rev. 13:6 lay the facts on the table. 2 Cor. 2:11 includes a warning.
4. a. Col. 3:1-2 gives us a charge to combat Satan’s schemes. How do we manage this and live our lives?
b. Explain what is meant in Phil. 1:2-3.
5. Women look for “Mr. Right”, men look for a helpmate, friends come and go, people identify with kindred spirits. Humans have a desire to touch base at a deeper level. Read and ponder Hag. 2:7, John 14:2-3, Rev. 19:7.
6. Along with a person who knows and understands and deeply loves me, there is a place for me. It’s not the keep in which Peter Pumpkin Eater put his wife. What are some aspects about it derived from the verses of Ecl. 3:11, Rev. 3:12, Mt. 19:23-24?
7. What aspects of heaven do we talk to children about? What might we focus on if talking to a non-Christian?
8. What is your longing for heaven?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 2, Home, Chapter 1

1. What, where and why is your favorite place in the whole world (so far)?
2. What was the biggest Thanksgiving at home you can remember?
3. Read page 7 in the book, and 2 Cor. 5:8.
4. Consider some aspects of a good home:
 - a. familiarity has the same root as “family”. What creates familiarity? Read 1 Thes. 4:16-18.
 - b. comfort. What aspects of life does one need comfort in?
 - c. food is what you are used to and what you like. Read Is. 25:6— what might this choice piece be? What are your favorite foods? Will calories or cholesterol matter? Imagine Matt. 8:11 — what food and faces will be present?
 - d. laughter — Luke 6:21. Have you ever lived with people who did not share your same sense of humor?
 - e. as children — Matt. 19:14. What characteristics do children have that we have grown away from?
5. What are some of the aspects of a bad home, and their effects? And there are over one million street children (read Lam. 2:11-12) in the world, with no home at all.
6. Why can you “never go home again”? Oppose that thought to those in John 14:2-3 and Is. 62:4-5.

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 3, Amazed, Chapters 2-5

1. The exchange student, from Berlin, living with us observed, “In a big city you can have more fun [opportunities], but in a small town you can have more friends.” Compare rural life with a metropolis.
2. What big cities have you been to?
3. When was the city of Jerusalem’s golden age? Read 2 Chron. 9:6: what can you derive from this observation?
4. Some things we can know about heaven:
 - a. Is it a physical place, or does it exist in a spiritual form only? Read what Christ said in John 6:33-35, Acts 1:2. Are angels physical or spiritual beings? Consult Mt. 28:2 and Rev. 10:1. Certain people experienced heaven while still in their earthly bodies in 2 Kings 2:11, 2 Cor. 12:2-4 and Rev. 11:12. By the way, *where* is heaven? Mk 6:41.
 - b. What is heaven repeatedly referred to in Heb. 11:16, 12:22, 13:14?
 - c. What might be implied by Rev. 21:25 and the open gates? Add the pictures of Mt. 8:11.
5. We need to look at some measurements. Rev. 21:15-17. Whose measurements are these? Project these measurements onto a map of a land mass we know, then add the projection of height.
6. So we enter this actual, physical hub—but it is not mud brick and cement, tarnished metal, wire, tracks, the dirt and grime of labor and industry we see. Picture Rev. 21:18-24.
7. Only structures? What information expands that picture in Rev. 22:1-2 and Is. 65:25 (keep in mind this is the millennial phase).
8. In what ways will our home in heaven be different than our home here? What aspects will be familiar, what will be changed? Is. 65:22, 2 Cor. 5:1-4, 2 Pet. 3:11-13, Rom. 8:19-22
9. When we talk about someone “settling down” or a family “getting settled”, what aspects are involved? Heb. 11:8-10 pictures the opposite; what is being sought?
10. Read *In Light of Eternity* from page 33, beginning with “When Aslan’s creatures leave Narnia...”

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 4, Heaven's Phases, Chapter 6

1. What was the biggest remodeling project you undertook?
2. In John 14:3, what is the verb tense used, past, present, or future? Given Christ's earthly occupation and divine resources, what might this suggest?
3. Randy Alcorn proposes at least five phases of heaven.
 - a. What changes take place in Is. 14:12-15 (especially 13 and 14) and Ez. 28:12-17 (esp. 14)? Compare the scenarios before and after.
 - b. Read Lk. 16:22-23; at what point on the timeline of earthly events does this fall? Describe the proximity of heaven and hell.
 - c. Paul does not speak of "Abraham's bosom", but something has been revealed to him. Eph. 4:8-10 is given as an explanation. 2 Cor. 5:8 offers what new phase?
 - d. Is. 65:25 gives a snapshot of the millennial kingdom. What are any other aspects of this reign you can recall? (For a little more scripture on the millennial kingdom, read Rev. 20:1-10.)
 - e. Finally, after Satan is bound forever, what is unique about the picture of heaven in Rev. 21:1-7 and Rev. 22:1-5?
4. Heaven has phases, what about hell? Rev. 20:14-15 (remember Lk. 16:22-23).
5. With this understanding of the phases of heaven and hell, speculate on these thoughts: Eph. 6:12 ("wickedness in the heavenly places"), Job 1:6 ("before the Lord, Satan also came"), and Rev. 12:7 ("war in heaven").
6. When was Satan cast down and when will he be bound in the pit? Rev. 20:2-3, 7-8. How does this timeline reflect the magnitude and power of the offense? Similarly, compare the recorded length of time creation of earth required of Christ, to his departure to "go to prepare a place" for us. What might we assume?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 5, God's Home, Chapter 7 (first part)

1. Do you remember being remonstrated for running in the church building? What reason were you given? What other aspects of this do we practice?
2. When we refer to a church as the house of God, we do not mean that He lives there...exactly. But He does have a home, a place He exists—perhaps “centers”. Read Deut. 26:15 and Mt. 6:9.
3. There are (at least) two accounts of mortals visiting God; read of these and list the aspects and components of the descriptions in Is. 6:1-4 and Rev. 4:2-8.
4. Discuss the relation between earthly places of worship and God's dwelling place based on Heb. 8:5, 9:11, 23 and 24.
5. What does the word “tabernacle” mean? Already this is a foreign concept of the meaning to western culture. What does Rev. 21:3 imply?
6. Our home will be where angels reside. Read Lk. 2:15, and Heb. 12:22. What might an angel look like? What would be comfortable and familiar—Home—for them?
7. If we represent the church building as “God's House”, what might this reinforce? In what ways might this impression be detrimental?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 6, God's Home, Chapter 7 (last part)

1. Have you ever met an ambassador? What consulates have you visited? Where did you have this experience?
2. Heb. 12:23 describes the standing, the grace and mercy that establishes our positions as believers. What does "first born" mean? What does this mean in a family home situation?
3. Alcorn suggests the most important aspect of heaven is found in Rev. 22:4, with Ex. 33:20 as background. This aspect is powerfully significant to Jews, but Christians have the experience of John 1:14. Can you imagine this?
4. God's home is our true home. Note some further aspects about that home from these verses:
Heb. 11:13, 11:16, Phil. 3:20 _____
Lk. 10:20, Rev. 20:15 _____
Gal. 5:21, Eph. 5:5 _____
1 Pet. 1:4 _____
2 Cor. 5:20 _____
5. What are the duties of an ambassador? And, in terms of relating to the foreign country to which one represents the home country, where does one draw the line on values, empathy, philosophies, allegiance? What happens to one's effectiveness if the line is crossed?
6. Heb. 11:13-16, some of which we already looked at, describes ancient ambassadors of God. What kind of things might be said that make it clear one is an exile here?
7. How are you doing as an ambassador for Christ? What are some world's values and philosophies easiest to adopt? What choices have you consciously made because you're an alien and stranger here?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 7, What We Will Be, Chapter 8 (first part)

1. What are some unusual names for babies? What do you think a name indicates—gender, parents' hopes, individuality, character, family background...?
2.
 - a. Notice the use of people's names in Mt 8:11 and Lk. 16:25—what was the earthly status of these named? What does a name indicate?
 - b. Rev. 2:17 refers to another name. What are some observations about this name and conjectures?
 - c. Are we talking reincarnation here or what?
3. Gen. 2:7 describes God's creation of man. What are the components and why are they different from the rest of the creatures? Would we assume we will be different in heaven?
4. We do have the example, account, of a human being after death and resurrection... that would be Christ, of course. What can we know about this resurrected body from Scripture?
1 Cor. 15:20, 48-49, 1 John3:2 _____
Lk. 24:15-16, 31, 37-39 _____

Read Finney's "account" on p. 47 of *In Light of Eternity*.

5. What about age and aging? Is. 11:8-9 speaks of children in the millennium. How will our parents and grandparents seem to us, our children and grandchildren, in terms of age?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 8, What We Will Be, Chapter 8 (last part)

1. Which of your physical characteristics will you not miss in heaven?
2. Two bodies are opposed in 1 Cor. 15:42-44. List the comparisons.
3. What are these new human bodies capable of? Remember Lk. 24:31, also read John 20:19, Acts 1:9, Lk. 14:15, 22:18, Is. 25:6, and Rev. 7:16.
4. Alcorn suggests we maybe given a “pre-resurrection” body between leaving earth and the resurrection at the last trumpet. He bases this partly on Jesus’ account of Lazarus and the rich man (Lk. 16) referring to body parts such as finger, tongue, and the need for cool water. Read 2 Cor. 5:1-4 and speculate on this suggested pre-resurrection body.
5. John 4:24 and Heb. 1:14 refer to God the Father, and His angels as spirits—the essence of their nature—capable of taking human form. What are the essential components of humans? In Gen. 2:7, what does “breath” mean?
6. Alcorn suggests we keep our physical and personal characteristics. How do you feel about that?
7. Based on Mt. 22:30, speculate on whether we maintain a gender in heaven.
8. Rom. 7:24—in seeking the spiritual, do we assume the physical is evil? If we have a physical body in heaven what changes would there be? Is it possible to practice these changes now?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 9, Explosion of Joy, Chapter 9

1. What is one thing this past week over which you felt anger?
2. What different emotions can be associated with tears?
3. What will *not* be in heaven?
Matt. 6:20 _____ Rev. 14:13 _____
Rev. 21:4 _____ Rom. 7:24 _____
4. a. Have you ever felt sleepy in church? Without sin, might heaven be boring? Does wild fun require sin?
b. What different appeals did Satan use to tempt Eve?
c. Eve say that the fruit was delightful to look at and desirable to make one wise (Gen. 3:6). She sought fulfillment for a lacking. Did eating the fruit bring fulfillment?
5. What clues tell us Ps. 16:11 is speaking of heaven? What is the measurement, degree, His word gives for the promise?
6. Is the rejoicing in Lk. 15:7 and 10 limited to angels? Limited to a trumpet introduction and a harp or piano? Woodstock, or my rather sedate 50th birthday?
7. Who and what is emoting in Rev. 6:10? Can there be sin involved with these feelings? Along with Rev. 21:4, what are some conclusions we might draw about our ability to feel emotions in heaven?
8. Mt. 25:23 has the good and faithful servant enter into the joy of the master. Does this seem like second-hand joy, not what you/I might have in mind, enjoying someone else's preference?
9. What is involved in the dress code of heaven based on Rev. 3:4, Mt. 13:43, and Dan. 12:3? What is implied by secular excitement and fulfillment? How do these two connotations of exciting fullness of joy compare?
10. We will likely leave behind some of the things that we find pleasure in here on earth: it causes me to wonder if there is sin involved with these. What are some of the pleasures we might leave behind as we head for Home?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 10, Rest and Labor, Chapter 10

1. Have you ever heard someone say (or thought to yourself), “Well, if so-and-so is going to be in heaven, I don’t think I want to be there.”?
2. Read Mt. 8:11 and imagine the scope and variety of those in heaven. In Rev. 19:9 what does “blessed” mean?
3. Have you ever lived/stayed somewhat with housekeeping help? Read/recall several translations of John 14:2. There is an idea of many homes/rooms within one compound or household. What will *not* be your responsibility in heaven?
4. Lk. 16:1-13 offers an interesting situation. Can the use of earthly money and position effect my relationships in heaven? How do you picture this situation as it effects heaven?
5.
 - a. How did Peter recognize these others in Mt. 17:1-4?
 - b. I Cor. 13:12-13 indicates not only understanding more as we draw closer to the Lord, but that our best qualities “abide”. What of life on earth might we remember?
6. Rev. 4:9-11, and 7:9-12 do not describe our Sunday morning worship. What is different? Clothing? Language? Manner of behavior? Music? Surrounding? Read “Nick’s” experience on page 64 of *In Light of Eternity*.
7. The words and language of Is. 65:17-19 may remind one of a puritan corn husking or reserved church harvest festival, our orderly community Thanksgiving service. But if God rejoices, what might this truly be? What sort of party could God throw? What will appeal to a 14 year old kid, an 80 year old dowager?
8. Gen. 3:17-19 lays out our situation concerning labor. What are the facts here? When our toil on earth is over, Rev. 14:13 voices welcome words. In light of the curse of labor on earth, what will our responsibilities and results be in heaven? 2 Tim. 2:12, Rev. 3:21, 22:5, Lk 19:17-19 and 1 Cor. 6:2-3.
9. Rev. 7:15 and 22:3 indicate we will be active in heaven. Again, without the curse, what will *not* be associated with our service in heaven?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 11, *Opposite: Boredom, Chapters 11 & 12*

1. Is “hell” a bad word? (One of Satan’s lies is that it is uncivilized and unchristian to talk about it.)
2. Another lie is that “we are all God’s children” and heading for heaven. What is the true “default” destination?
3. Someone once said, “If we could spend five minutes in hell our lives would never be the same.” Jesus spoke openly of hell (Mt. 10:28, Mt. 13:40-42). What might be His reasons, and how might it have affected people?
4. Mt. 25:41 and Rev. 20:10 are two verses that tell us for whom hell was created. From Rev. 20:12-15, who are we told will also inhabit hell?
5. Mt. 25:46 confirms that hell is as literal and eternal as heaven. Reading Lk. 16:22-31, with what issues (needs, torments...) does the rich man deal?
6. 2 Th. 1:9 tells us *where* hell exists. Read the paragraph from *In Light of Eternity* on page 76 that begins “While...”
7. Heaven is the opposite of eternal death
 - a. Gen. 3:8-10 gives a clue as to what man’s relationship to God was like in an age of innocence to sin. What are some aspects of this interaction?
 - b. Mt. 8:11 introduces a few names in heaven. With plenty of time and opportunity, what saint would you like a chance to get to know?
 - c. The Author of creation is unchanging: He is obviously the first and foremost Artist. What might this mean in terms of eternity?
 - d. Eph. 2:6-7 indicates revelation and learning in heaven. Is. 55:9 reveals our knowledge gap
 - e. What is the lifespan of angels? Estimate their knowledge compared to ours and read 1 Pet. 1:12
8.
 - a. 2 Pet. 3:8 speaks of God’s timelessness, but there is a progression of events in heaven to suggest a framework of time.
 - b. Lk. 15:7,10 indicate that events on earth affect heaven. Also read Rev 6:9-11.
 - c. Other inferences on the concept of time in heaven may be found in Rev 22:2 and Rev. 8:1
9. Read the excerpt from “Farewell to the Shadowlands” found in C.S. Lewis’ *The Last Battle* on p. 81 of *In Light of Eternity*.

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 12, Remember Our Lives, Chapter 13

1. Are we born with the personality and character God intends for us?
2. At the times in your life when you have gained a deeper relationship with God, what were your earthly situations?
3. What is the context of 1 Cor. 13:12? When is “now” and “then”? And, how much is “fully”—is it *everything*?
4. There are things in my life I would rather forget. 2 Cor. 5:10 and Mt. 12:36 offer insight—how much of our earthly lives will we need to remember?
5. Though saved by grace through faith rather than works, a practicing Christian has more hope at the accounting in 1 Cor. 3:14. Aside from the reckoning aspect, what is the result?
6. Consider what happens to our “deeds” from Rev. 14:13 and Rev. 19:7-8.
7. Because evangelical Christians stress that salvation is not based on good works, we tend to overlook the factor that our earthly conduct has on the eternal. What do these scriptures indicate about the eternal results of righteous deeds? Mt. 6:19-21, Mt. 19:21, 1 Tim. 6:19, Rev. 2:26-28
8.
 - a. What do we assume from Paul’s use of the pronoun “we” in 2 Cor. 5:10? What factors improve our verdict and outcome?
 - b. What judgment appears in Rev. 20:11-13, and who does it involve?
 - c. Jesus indicates in Mt. 12:36 how comprehensive this exam will be.
9. Lk. 16:27-31 and Rev. 6:9-11 recount that even unpleasant thoughts remain.
 - a. What will comfort or override these memories?
 - b. If the sin factor is removed from unpleasant thoughts, what remains?
 - c. When we recall unpleasant thoughts in heaven, how will it affect our joy?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 13, Terra Awareness, Chapters 14 & 15

1. What traumatic incident do you recall from grade school? Was there any adult intervention?
2. Recalling the famous poem “Footsteps in the Sand”, when have you specifically felt carried, buoyed, sheltered by the Lord?
3. Does Is. 65:17 mean a memory wipe? Read the context of one verse before and after: *Who* does not remember?
4. “Memorials” of sorts are described in Rev. 21:12-14. What purpose do these serve?
5. The familiar exchanges of John 20:24-29 involve the post resurrection, pre-ascension body of Christ. What do the scars recall?
6.
 - a. In Rev. 18:1-2, 20 “Babylon” falls, and who is made aware of it?
 - b. This causes much rejoicing in Rev. 19:15: could the human population of heaven rejoice without knowing why?
 - c. Then heaven’s army prepares in Rev. 19:11-14, for the battle in v. 19. How much information would this army need today to be aware of their foe?
7. A couple of examples of post humus people aware of what was happening on earth are found in 1 Sam. 28:18 and Lk. 9:31. Recount the personages and incidents.
8. Rev. 14:10 states that angels are even witness to the torment of hell, and yet they remain fully committed to serving God. A common misconception is, “For people to be happy in heaven, they can’t know what’s happening on earth.” What conclusion does this draw?
9.
 - a. If you mentally scan the incident of the rich man and Lazarus of Lk. 16:19-31, whose voice and thoughts do we hear?
 - b. We have discussed the possible “progression” of heaven: from Rev. 21:1-4, when does the promise of “no more crying” appear?
10.
 - a. Christ grieved for people while here on earth (Mt. 23:37-39, Jhn. 11:33-36); and He spoke to Saul after His ascension on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:4-5), does He not still grieve for people right now?
 - b. Eph. 2:6 says we Christians are somehow linked to Christ. Will being safely at home in heaven with God make us less compassionate for others still earth bound?
11. Once we arrive in heaven and are ensconced by the glory, light and truth of God’s love, even if we are keenly aware of earth, how might we be affected by ongoing events there?

12. Will we be burdened by regrets in heaven? What will we remember, what will we forget?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 14, *Riverbed Stones*, Chapters 16 & 17

1. Word association: Christ; Cross; Salvation; Life...
2. A synonym is used for death in 1 Cor. 15:26: what other descriptive synonyms or analogies have you heard for death?
3. In *In Light of Eternity* there is a story of river stones on pages 108-111.
4. Rev. 14:13 and Rev. 19:7-8 mention, almost in passing, that “good works” actually do something in heaven. What do these verses say good deeds *do* in terms of heaven?
5. What is the evangelical protestant’s objection to racking up “good works”? There is ample support for the objection from Is. 64:6 and Mt. 6:1 (and following, for any further illumination).
6. I’ll bet Eph. 2:8-9 rank in the top 10 of popular scripture passages, but probably 95% of people will not know what v. 10 says—do you?
7. What aspect of God’s character, from Heb. 6:10, is connected to His remembering your work?
8. James says good works are essential to the Christian life in 2:17-26; 3:13 of his epistle. What are some succinct phrases we can draw, conclude or use to summarize this?
9. You remember the story of the talents from Mt. 25? What are the famous words of v. 21? What is the relationship of the quality of faith?
10. What is the “if—then” statement of 2 Pet. 1:10-11? This statement concludes a progressive list of things to practice beginning in verse 5: how do these relate to the “if—then” statement?
11. The Great White Throne judgment is described in Rev. 20:11-15. Who are to be judged, and by what? Are Christians exempt?
12. Catch a nutshell phrase from each of these other passages to shed light on this idea of believers undergoing judgment.
Ecc. 12:14 _____ Rom. 14:10, 12 _____
2 Cor. 5:10 _____ Col. 3:25 _____
1 Cor. 3:14-15 _____
13. What effect does this judgment of Christians have on heaven?

14. Define "works": how practical and concise can you make this definition?
Aspects from these verses might help: 1 Cor. 3:13, Heb. 12:1, Rom. 8:31, 2 Pet. 1:3.

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 15, Salvation and Rewards, Chapter 18

1. What is a “goody two shoes”? What is the connotation?
2. So, what are “good deeds”/“works”/righteous acts?
3. 1 Cor. 3:11-15
 - a. Establish the importance of the “foundation”.
 - b. Who, what and why is it built upon?
 - c. How and what are revealed? For what outcome?
4. In 2 Cor. 5:10, what does the word “recompense” mean? Are we talking positive or negative?
5. Randy Alcorn establishes some distinctions between salvation and rewards that help with understanding the concepts. Read through the first half of p. 117 of *In Light of Eternity* and look up the scripture.
6. Is entrance into heaven a gift or a reward, something we work for or something given out of love? (Can you recall Rom. 6:23 and Eph. 2:8-9 from memory?)
7. What is the motivation for walking the narrow path to heaven if salvation begins the journey and awaits at the end? What is the outcome of a righteous life, where is the reward? 1 Pet. 3:11-17, 2 Tim. 3:12.
8. Does Rev. 3:11 indicate we could *lose* a reward?
9. If there is a reward for the righteous things we do for the Lord, is there also a cancellation of these, or even a punishment for our sins? Read and write “headlines” for Ps. 103:8-18 and Rom. 8:31-39.
10. Where is our focus, from Phil. 3:13-14, in terms of doing right or wrong?
11. Are there perimeters to doing good?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 16, *Treasures and Crowns*, Chapter 19

1. When did you read R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*?
2. In a burglary, what are the irreplaceable considerations?
3. Mk. 9:41 suggests that the smallest kindness matters—but what is a stipulation? What motives may confuse the worthiness of the kindness?
4. What is required of “stewards” in 1 Cor. 4:2? How does this relate to success, increase, progress or numbers?
5. How will Mother Teresa's heavenly rewards compare with Billy Graham's? Are “all men created equal”? Am I destined by birth, time and opportunity to naturally receive less reward?
6. What/Why are the different rewards bestowed in the following?
Mt. 25:23 _____ Mt. 6:19-21 _____
Lk. 19:17-26 _____ 1 Cor. 3:12-15 _____
7. When you read 1 John. 2:28, what do you think might be the cause for such a situation?
8. Alcorn proposes degrees of suffering in hell based on the nature and number of sins committed. Read Rev. 20:12-13 and Mt. 11:20-24 and consider the proposal.
9. On page 124 of *In Light of Eternity* there is a list of crowns and rewards. How appealing to you is a crown? Read the list and look up the scripture cited.
10. Whatever the appeal of a crown may be, one good use of it occurs in Rev. 4:10.
11. Is it possible to lose a heavenly reward? Review these verses and consider the possibility: Rev. 3:11, Mt. 6:5-6, 25:28-29, 1 Cor. 3:15, 9:27, 2 John. 8.
12. Rev. 2:17 cites some individual possessions. Alcorn believes Mt. 6:20 and Col. 3:24 imply tangible goods. What do you think, how do you imagine “ownership” in heaven?
13. How does the idea of rewards in heaven affect your life philosophy, your value system?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 17, God's Rewards, Chapter 20

1. Early in his college years my brother mused, "If you think about it, everything a person does is for the sake of some comfort." Would you agree?
2. Read the story of two farmers on p. 129 of *In Light of Eternity*.
3. What are some major points of 1Cor. 4:5?
4. How will God judge?
Mt. 19:29 _____ Jer. 17:10, Gen. 18:25 _____
Rom. 2:14-16 _____
Ecc. 12:14, Mt. 12:36, Heb. 4:12-13 _____
5. If we are judged so thoroughly (every careless word), how can we ever do anything significant enough to be rewarded? Mk. 9:41
6. Have you served and given of yourself even incurred expense or damage and felt it was a futile waste? What do the situations of Lk. 6:35 and 14:14 involve?
7. We have referred often to the parable of the talents (Mt. 25:14-23). What interpretation do the differing entrustments have?
8. What theme do Lk. 6:22-23 and 2 Cor. 4:17(-18) share with Heb. 10:32-35? The Hebrews passage offers what "second hand" significance?
9. Is the desire for heavenly rewards selfish? What motivated the apostle Paul? 1 Cor. 9:24-25, Phil. 3:13-14, 2 Tim. 4:7-8. What motivation does he offer other Christians in Col. 3:22-24 and 1 Tim. 6:17-19?
10. Skim the temptation of Christ in Mt. 4:1-11: why would Satan even try? Identify some major aspects of human nature that God appeals to in
Mt. 20:25-28, Lk. 19:15-19 _____
Mt. 19:20-21, 28-29 _____
Ps. 16:11 _____.
11. From the analogy of Lk. 17:7-10, does God "owe" us? Whose idea is it to reward us, God's or our's?
12. Is it human or spiritual to be motivated by reward? Is it inhuman or unspiritual to be motivated by reward?
13. Read the end of the chapter on p. 135 beginning with "He'll reward..."

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 18, *Chance a Difference*, Chapters 21 & 22

1. You need to read a good story about a slave on p.136 of *In Light of Eternity*.
2. What do you know about your great grandfather? What will your great grandchildren know about you?
3.
 - a. How might we hasten or delay “life’s greatest certainty” of death?
 - b. One can have a child die of malaria on the mission field of Africa, or die in an accident on the way to church in the States—is there a difference?
 - c. Where do “second chances” take place? What signals “it’s over”?
4. Life on earth—eternal or temporary? Treasures in heaven—eternal or temporary? Opportunities on earth—eternal or temporary? Rewards in heaven—eternal temporary?
5. “Hey, heaven is ‘heaven’: it can’t get any better,” might be the mantra of the “bare bones” Christian of which 1 Cor. 3:15 speaks. What is the fly in this apparently blissful ointment? Read the excerpt from C. S. Lewis on p.139 of *In Light of Eternity*.
6. Ps. 39:4 emphasizes how inconsequential one’s life may seem. How important is your life to God’s plan? How important is your life to the people you are in contact with? Who will be effected in heaven by your life?
7. Randy Alcorn points out that as small as one’s life is, God remembers it perfectly, so much so “that the door of eternity swings on the hinges of choices made here and now.” Which of the following illustrations used in his book represent this best for you?
 - This life is the headwaters out of which life in heaven flows; eternity will hold what we have poured into it.
 - The resources entrusted to us (time, talent, money and possessions) are the level positioned on the fulcrum of this life that moves the mountains of eternity.
 - Investments today (Bible reading, prayer, involvement in ministry...) will reap big returns in eternity.
 - In the development process of photography, the image is subject to change and adjustment (life on earth) until the “stop bath” or “fixer” (death) when it become permanent.
8. What is the central focus of most North Americans? How do we know this? Where do people look for joy and fulfillment? Does it meet the need?
9. Read the excerpt from C. S. Lewis’ *Mere Christianity* on p.143: what difference would it make if you lived your life focused on eternity? What difference would it make if you lived your life focused on God and His love, His word, His people and other souls bound for eternity?

10. Alcorn offers the image of a dot from which extends a line. Remembering definitions of geometry, where in this image does one's life on earth take place?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 19, Cultivating Eternity, Chapter 23

1. As each day brings a person closer to the edge of eternity, are you moving closer to your treasures, or away from them?
2. Ex. 20:12 records the first commandment with a promise. How does this differ from the “prosperity theology” of today?
3. The saints of old longed for heaven in Heb. 11:13-16 And 2 Cor. 5:2. We are charged by one of these saints in Col. 3:1-2 to be disciplined in mind set. What is Satan’s lie about being too heavenly minded? C.S. Lewis counter offers that as Christian’s cease to focus on heaven, what might happen? (The statement is found between p. 144-145 of *In Light of Eternity*.)
4. While on p. 145, read the 1649 vintage excerpt from Richard Baxter. Randy Alcorn suggests posting favorite verses about heaven in reminder spots, and talking with loved ones about heaven. What most centers your focus on that ultimate destination?
5. Jesus encourages us to gain treasures in Mt. 6:19-21; He only wants us to be sure to store it properly. 1 Tim. 6:7 confirms “you can’t take it with you,” but you *can* send it on ahead!
6. A.W. Tozer wrote, “Any temporal possession can be turned into everlasting wealth. Whatever is given to Christ is immediately touched with immortality.” What does it mean to give something to Christ?
7. When a person recognizes their earthly needs as a functional car, certain college degree, or a home (or remodel), what is the process toward that goal? In what way is a heart for God similar?
8. Who are some lay people in your church that invest time, money and effort to a concern? What is an area of need that has your concern?
9. Martin Luther said, “I have held many things in my hands and have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.” What things have you put time, effort, money and talent into and lost?
10. Heb. 2:15 says that through fear of death people were subject to slavery but it offers a solution. Why then are many Christians afraid of death? Alcorn proposes people end up “backing into eternity”—how does this happen?

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 20, More Alive, Chapters 24& beginning 25

1. The Bible begins with an expulsion: it ends with a welcome. What is Satan's role in the beginning, and what happens to him at the end?
2. Jesus suffered terribly but is ultimately victorious. We scorned, and then killed Him; what is our relationship to Him as, believers, for eternity?
3.
 - a. "Sleep" is the word used 14 times in the NT for death. Read John 11:11 and Acts 7:60: can this possibly mean bodily rest and recovery as we know sleep?
 - b. Death as "sleep" might suggest unconscious oblivion but how do the connotations of 2 Cor. 5:6-8 and Phil 1:23 counter this?
 - c. Death is not sleep as we know it now. *When* did Jesus state the thief of Lk. 23:43 would be with Him in Paradise? And think of Lazarus and the rich man of Lk. 16:21-23.
4. Another analogy of death is a departure, as in 2 Pet. 1:15. The Greek word meaning "loosen" is used in 2 Tim. 4:6. Read the list of common usages in that culture at the top of p. 151 of *In Light of Eternity*.
5. 1 Cor. 15:26 calls death the "last enemy"—to fear or to triumph over? What does the verb tense suggest?
6. Add Ps 116:15 to the recipe of death. Is the war finished or ongoing? How is Lazarus conveyed in Lk. 16:22? Further support for this is found in Mt. 18:10 and Heb. 1:14 and causes one to consider the role of a Christian, as a proverbial root vegetable or warrior, purposed for the divan or the divine.
7. There is a good allegory of an earthly departure on p. 152 of *In Light of Eternity*.
8. Can you briefly recount the background story and reasoning of the Nobel Peace Prize? (There is a short paragraph on p. 154 of *In Light of Eternity*.) The main point is the ability to access life and change.

In Light of Eternity, Randy Alcorn
Lesson 21, Preparing to Move Home, Chapter 25 & Conclusion

1. Is the desire for a beautiful home wrong? What does a home represent? How can this dream be fulfilled?
2. What accompanies boredom? Are there aspects of earthly life in which you can say that pleasure has only increased and never diminished?
3. After reading 2 Pet. 3:7, 10 & 12, what will God redeem of this world? If you have any trouble with materialism (represented by Babylon), either read Rev. 18 in a separate study, or take a trip to a junk yard and consider the origins and demise of what is there.
4.
 - a. John 8:44 explains why Christians might doubt their faith, the value or impact of their life, the source and reason for their wholesome desires... What are some lies about your own life you have been able to refute?
 - b. In contrast John 8:32 and 14:6 explain the position of Christ.
5. C. S. Lewis proposes whether “in our heart of hearts, we have ever desired anything else...” but heaven (from p. 158 of *In Light of Eternity*). When one desires “a perfect world”, is it based on selfishness?
6. There are a few instances in the Bible of mortal flesh glimpsing the immortal. Read about Elisha in 2 Kings 6:17 and what does Heb. 11:27 tell us Moses saw? How can we see the *real* world?
7. Rev. 12:10-11 describes the “accused brethren”—How do they overcome the accuser? And what are the personalized aspects of Rev. 7:17?
8. Paul is confident in Phil. 1:6 of our growth in God’s kingdom. How can one sharpen one’s focus on heaven?
9. Randy Alcorn asks, “Have we invested [our lives] in eternity? Have we carried into the minds of our families and our church and our community a burning image of the Lord Jesus Christ?” What can you do to write the best story of your life, to pre-edit your obituary?