

WHAT WILL I DO IN HEAVEN?

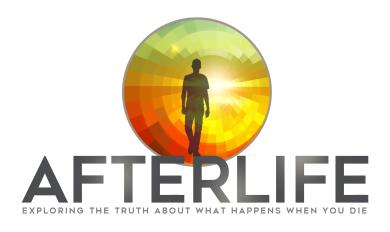
Has there ever been a time when you questioned whether you could count on God? If so, describe it.

In his book, *Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering*, pastor and author Tim Keller writes: "Human beings are hope-shaped creatures. The way you live now is completely controlled by what you believe about the future." Although the Bible says little about what we will do in heaven, it does give us plenty to hope for — namely, worship in the perfect presence of Christ, and there will be meaningful roles to play and things to do (Matthew 25; Luke 19, Revelation 21). Consider the questions below with you Small Group.

1. Realities before the coming ages.

In his sermon, Pastor Matt suggested that, "Sometimes there is a prevailing darkness in life, but through the Word, God lifts the curtain just enough to remind us that there is another story going on—God's story of victory and redemption." Because of the gospel we have hope and can worship God in all circumstances.

- Do you experience genuine, fulfilling worship in your church each Sunday? What aspects of the worship time do you find the most meaningful?
- During times of worship, can you describe the feelings that are most prominent? Is this experience similar to other experiences in daily life, or are these feelings unique to times of worship?
- Do you think there is enough genuine worship in a typical week in your life? If not, what are the hindrances to such worship?
- Can you think of anything other than worship of God that would make you feel more deeply that you are doing the thing for which you were created?



2. Worship in the coming ages

Revelation 21 begins with the announcement that there will be a "new heaven and new earth" (v.1). This serves as a reminder that creation is not evil, but rather it's been corrupted by sin and it is awaiting renewal (Romans 8:17).

- Are there ways in which you could be more thankful to God for the excellence of His creation? Give some examples of the goodness of creation that God has allowed you to enjoy.
- Are there ways in which you could be a better steward of parts of God's creation of which He has entrusted to your care? How does being a good steward of creation reflect a belief in God's plan to renew all things?
- 3. Anticipate the coming ages
- C.S. Lewis says in his book, *Mere Christianity:*

A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians that did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.

 What is a new habit you could form to begin thinking of "the coming ages" in such a way that might cause you to live more intentionally in the present?

Pray that God would give you a fresh perspective about heaven that would transform the way you live .