

Remember that this Sunday we would like all the group leaders and/or representatives to be at the small group canopy area to handout Heaven booklets after services and try to get people plugged into small groups. We have two new groups starting, one on Sunday morning and one on Wednesday evening. We also have a number of groups that can take in additional people including the following groups:

- Sunday Morning New Group – Ryan Hunt
- Wednesday Evening New Group – Galley Molina
- Tuesday Evening – Mike Graves
- Tuesday Evening – Bill Hayden
- Friday Evening – Chuck Ward
- Monday Evening – Ed Harris
- Some other groups that may be able to add a couple people if needed

To my knowledge, all of our small groups, our youth group and our children's ministry will be studying Heaven.

Also, I have completed a study guide for the entire Heaven series if you want use them they will also be available at the table for people and will get put onto the web at some point. I am emailing you a PDF version if you choose to print it. Feel free to use what you want and add what you want as you explore this study on Heaven.

### Memory Verse: Revelation 21:1

*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.*

### Weekly Reading:

|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| Day 1 | John 17:1-5         |
| Day 2 | Revelation 21:1-4   |
| Day 3 | Revelation 21:5-8   |
| Day 4 | Philippians 1:21-26 |
| Day 5 | Colossians 3:1-2    |

### Study Questions:

1. Why do you think people avoid thinking about Heaven more often?

*I find it interesting as I ponder heaven why I don't think about it more. It seems like it should consume my thoughts but it doesn't. Maybe that is because I have accepted the opinion that I have no idea what to expect.*

2. Do you think Heaven will be an actual place?

*The bible seems to indicate it is a place. Even Jesus talked about leaving and going and returning to take us with him. It would seem obvious that it is a place, not a state of being.*

3. What lesson can be learned from Paul's experience in 2 Corinthians 12:1-5 and how it affected the way he longed to be with God? (See Philippians 1:23 and 2 Corinthians 5:8)

*Paul couldn't tell us much but his life demonstrated a desire for Heaven. He became anxious about returning home with Christ. He also seemed at peace through many trials and life threatening circumstances. When he wrote 2 Timothy from jail awaiting his*

execution you hear a sense of pleasure and comfort. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Paul was forever encouraged by what he saw in heaven. We should be encouraged as well.

#### 4. What do you believe Heaven will be like?

Let people share and open up conversation. It is ok to speculate. Hopefully as this series progresses we will see heaven more clearly from scripture.

#### 5. Randy Alcorn says in his book *Heaven*, "what God made us to desire is a resurrected life in a resurrected body with a resurrected Jesus on a resurrected earth."

- How does this concept of Heaven appeal to your soul?

I find one of the hardest things to imagine about heaven is losing the things of life I love. Perhaps, a resurrected life on a resurrected earth will not be missing anything I love.

- How does it differ from the thoughts of your mind about Heaven?

My mind plays tricks on me about heaven. Most of us think of clouds and angles and boredom. Not fun, entertainment, activities, relationships.