

The Last Things (3 of 7)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, May 18th, 2025



Eschatology is the study of “the last things” in Christian theology. The *eschaton* is about the biblical view of the future, which comes into sharp focus with Jesus and the New Testament. Where is everything going? What happens when we die? And what about heaven, hell, the end times, the second coming, the final judgment, and the resurrection? In this 7-week sermon series, we will explore *The Last Things* and how our knowledge of the future can deepen our trust in God in times of fear and uncertainty, ground us in the Christian hope, and help us to live in light of the last things.

Sermon Title: Life After Death: Rethinking Heaven

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:39-43; John 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Revelation 4:1-11

Sermon Focus: The Bible says that “heaven” is God’s space and dimension (Rev. 4-5), which is a *present* reality. But it is not the same as the “new heaven and earth” (Rev. 21-22), which is a *future* reality. Why have so many Christians conflated and confused these two, and why does it matter? In the third message of our series, Pastor David shares about the biblical view of personhood (i.e., spirit, soul, and body), what happens after we die, and why we shouldn’t think of “heaven” as our eternal home.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began by sharing a bunch of images depicting “heaven” or the afterlife in pop-culture, movies, shows, etc. Before hearing the message, how have you conceived of “heaven” and why? Do you think your views are more reflective of the Bible or of culture? And why do you think it even matters?
2. Pastor David talked about near-death experiences. You may want to go back and see the slide that was shown in the message. In short, a near-death experience is a profound personal experience where people come close to death or were clinically dead and then were revived. In the general population, 4–5% of people report having had an NDE. This means that roughly 1 in 25—over 13 million people in the US alone—have had an NDE. That is a lot of people! Have you done any reading or study of these reports? If so, how has it helped you in your journey? Also, what questions does it raise in your mind?
3. According to the Scriptures, there are *three* different aspects or dimensions to being a unified human being made in the image of God (3-parts to the whole): spirit, soul, and body (e.g., 1 Thessalonians 5:23). Based on what Pastor David has been preaching, why is it a mistake to see “the real you” as a spirit or soul, and not see yourself as a unified spirit, soul, *and* body? Think about the many implications of the belief that our bodies are inconsequential and don’t reflect the real you. What comes to mind? For example, read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.
4. The Old Testament describes the afterlife as *Sheol*; not a place of conscious experience, but rather a state of rest (Ps.49:15); people were “gathered to their people” with hints of a future resurrection (Ez. 37; Dan.12:2). In the New Testament, the future *resurrection* is paramount (1 Cor.15). But until this event occurs, Jesus mentions “paradise” (Lk.29:39-43) and temporary “dwellings” (Jn.14:1-3). And Paul says we will “be with Christ” (Phil.1:23) and “at home with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8). What are your thoughts? Does it comfort you to know that you will consciously be with the Lord upon death, but also that God will raise the dead and bring heaven to earth at the second coming of Christ?
5. Pastor David has been inviting us to rethink our understanding of heaven and our future hope. How is the Spirit inviting me to align my theology and living to the truth that “heaven” is only a temporary stop on a journey to resurrection? What is God saying to me about where things are going and why it matters?