



What Will My Day to Day Life Be Like In Heaven?

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Philippians 1:21, 23b NIV

"For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain... I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far."

Doctrine of Redemptive Continuity – The scriptural belief that God has no intention of scraping his original creation to start over with something completely new but rather is redeeming and restoring all things to His original plan and intentions.

1) What will work be like in Heaven?

Isaiah 65:22-23a NLT

"Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards for my people will live as long as trees and my chosen ones will have the time to enjoy their hard-won gains. They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune."

John 4:34 NLT

"...My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing His work."

Genesis 1:28 NLT

"...Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky and the animals that scurry along the ground."

2) Will we continue to learn in Heaven?

1 Corinthians 13:12 NIV

"For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

"1 Corinthians 13:12 does not mean that we will be omniscient or know everything...[but] simply says that we will know in a fuller or more intensive way, 'even as we have been known,' that is without any error or misconception in our knowledge."

~ Wayne Grudem

Ephesians 2:6-7 NIV

*"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that **in the coming ages** he might **show** the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."*

Revelation 21:5b NIV

"I am making everything new!"

3) Will there be marriage and unique relationships in Heaven?

Matthew 22:30a NLT

"For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage."

Ephesians 5:31-32 NLT

"As the scriptures say, 'A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one."

Small Group Questions

1. What from Sunday's teaching stood out to you this week?
2. Consider Randy Alcorn's thought experiment. Who are you most intrigued to talk to one day and why? What would like to talk about?

Think of what it will be like to discuss science with Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday, and Thomas Edison or to discuss mathematics with Pascal. Imagine long talks with Malcolm Muggeridge or Francis Schaeffer.

Think of reading and discussing the writings of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, G. K. Chesterton, or Dorothy Sayers with the authors themselves. How would you like to talk about the power of fiction at a roundtable with John Milton, Daniel Defoe, Victor Hugo, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Leo Tolstoy, and Flannery O'Connor?

How about discussing God's attributes with Stephen Charnock, A. W. Pink, A. W. Tozer, and J. I. Packer? Or talking theology with Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, and Luther? Then, when differences arise, why not invite Jesus in to clear things up?

Imagine discussing the sermons of George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Finney, and Charles Spurgeon with the preachers themselves.

Or sitting down to hear insights on family and prayer from Susanna Wesley.

Or talking about faith with George Mueller or Bill Bright, then listening to their stories.

You could cover the Civil War era with Abraham Lincoln and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Or the history of missions with William Carey, Amy Carmichael, Lottie Moon, or Hudson and Maria Taylor. You could discuss ministry ideas with Brother Andrew, George Verwer, Luis Palau, Billy Graham, Joni Eareckson Tada, Chuck Colson, or Elisabeth Elliot.

3. Spend some time reviewing the 'Three Eras of Humankind and Earth.' Do you believe this supports the 'Doctrine of Redemptive Continuity?' (ie. that God doesn't intend to scrap everything from His original creation and simply start over with something completely different). Does anything stand out to you as you review the various parallels?

4. Review John 4:34 where Jesus says "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing His work."

Have you ever experienced work in such a way that you would have considered it "nourishment?" Share some examples and why it was meaningful to you. What percentage of your work life would you describe in this way? (ie. as being 'nourishment?') What would be different in your everyday life if you experienced work in this way 100% of the time (as you will in Heaven)?

5. On Sunday, Pastor Jeremy highlighted a Gallup poll that 82% of people indicated that they believed that we stop growing intellectually once we get to Heaven (ie. on the assumption that in Heaven we would already know everything). Scripture clearly teaches that we will continue to learn in Heaven (ex. Ephesians 2:6-7). Were you surprised by this insight? What are some things you look forward to learning more about when you get to Heaven?
6. "The one-flesh marital union we know on earth is a signpost pointing to our relationship with Christ as our bridegroom. Once we reach the destination the signpost becomes unnecessary. That one marriage – our marriage to Christ will be so completely satisfying that even the most wonderful earthly marriage couldn't be as fulfilling. Earthly marriage is a shadow, a copy, an echo of the true and ultimate marriage."

~ Randy Alcorn

Have you ever struggled with Jesus' words that there will be no human marriage in heaven? Why do you think you have felt that way?

If marriage is a signpost, what might it look like to encourage our spouse to love Jesus as first in everything? So often we focus so much of our energy in marriage to make sure our spouse is loving us first; but what if we spent time encouraging them to love Jesus first? How might things be different?

Listening Prayer: *"Jesus, we believe that your Kingdom is available now. Is there more that you would desire for us to experience in either our work or key relationships right now? What is one thing I could do this coming week to access the Kingdom in these areas (of work and relationships) more fully?"*