

## **Update / Reminder**

This is the final week of sermon-based questions this term. The winter term will begin with questions again the week of January 13th!

# Discussion Questions

## Intro

What beliefs about heaven have you held? What do you imagine it to be?

- Are these in line with Scripture or do they find their root in something else?

What is something you *love* to do here on earth? Can you imagine what that would be like *without* the curse of sin (pride, ego, brokenness, pain, etc)?

## Scripture / Sermon Discussion

Read Revelation 21:1-4 as a group.

- Basic question, but why is there a *need* for a new heaven and new earth?
- What are the main characteristics of this new heaven and earth according to these verses?
- What does verse 3 say? How does this speak to our purpose as humans?
- What does verse 4 mean? Do you have a hard time believing this? Why?

Think through our “Blueprint” series (and the good design of: *creation, rest, work, image-bearing nature, physical/spiritual nature, etc*):

- Do you think all those good designs will *also* be present in the new heavens and new earth? Why or why not?
- What would it look like if any of these things were missing?

Dr. John mentioned that a *firstfruit* in a harvest implies “more to come”. Explain.

- How does this apply to resurrection? (See 1 Corinthians 15:20)
- Have you ever believed that we won’t be resurrected *bodily*? Where do you suppose this belief comes from?

What do you think of how Dr. John compared the renewal of the earth to the renewal of Christ’s body after he was resurrected?

- What does Paul say about resurrected bodies and “seeds” in 1 Corinthians 15:35-49?
- What is the difference between *resuscitation* and *resurrection*? Why is this an important distinction?

## Quote

Discuss the following quote and then take some time to thank God for his creation, redemption, and the hope of new creation:

- *The biblical story began, quite logically, with a beginning. Now it draws to an end, not quite so logically, also with a beginning. The sin-ruined creation of Genesis is restored in the sacrifice-renewed creation of Revelation. The product of these beginning and ending acts of creation are the same: 'the heavens and the earth' in Genesis, and a 'new heaven and a new earth' in Revelation. The story that has creation for its first word, has creation for its last word."*<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Eugene H. Peterson, *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination.*, (HarperSanFrancisco, 1991), 169-170.