

'Eternity'

From the series:: Conversations... on life, God, and other small topics – 12/02/12

BIG IDEA

Talking about eternity is a heavy subject because we are talking about people and the ultimate direction of their lives – heaven or hell. Although it would be easy to ignore or avoid this 'Conversation', it is not a subject that Jesus avoided because He loved people enough to talk about 'eternal' things. Ultimately, heaven and hell are about our relationship with God through Jesus. To be son or daughter of God through Jesus is to have heaven, to reject God and Christ is to be abandoned to ourselves, to have hell.

QUESTIONS

Engaging the Head::

- It would be an understatement to say that talking about 'eternal things' such as 'heaven and hell' is difficult. Is what you currently believe about 'heaven and hell' right, or is it something that you just made up to make a very difficult subject more palatable?
- Is our eternal destiny a choice we make, or is it a choice God makes, or is it a combination of both?
- Read | [John 5:10-13](#) – here the Apostle John teaches that our relationship with Jesus in this life will determine our relationship with Jesus in eternity. It's easy to think of 'heaven and hell' as more of a space, but what if 'heaven and hell' was more about a relationship? How would thinking of eternity as tied up in our relationship with God and His presence change the way we think and live with God?

Engaging the Heart::

- Read [2 Peter 3:8-11](#) – hope is important to our lives. How does heaven offer us hope for today? How does it motivate us to live toward God in a holy manner?

Engaging the Hands::

"If you believe that there is a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell ... and you think it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward ... how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize?" **Penn Jillette** (watch his [video blog here](#))

- A challenging statement from an 'atheist' – specifically, when he says '*how much do you have to hate somebody not to proselytize?*' It's not easy talking about weighty matters such as 'heaven and hell' but out of love for people, we must. What are some of your challenges in talking about these things with people who do not know God? How might you begin to overcome those challenges?
- Knowing that we have eternal life ought to change the way we live our lives. In what ways should the truth of heaven effect how we live? 'Repent, rejoice, and reveal' were just a few mentioned on Sunday, but how else should the reality of 'heaven and hell' impact the way we live, specifically, the way we relate with those around us?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **This Friday** – an evening of worship & prayer this Friday, December 7th at 8PM. Leading us in worship will be worship pastor candidate James Park.
- **This Sunday** – GENESIS will conclude the 'Conversation' this Sunday by looking at – **Christianity**. Leading worship at both the 9AM & 11AM will be worship pastor candidate James Park.
- **Food drive** – this is the final week to help support the *GENESIS Kids Food Drive* by bringing in 'non-perishable' foods to church! Learn more at: www.genesisjourney.com/blog/post/food-drive
- **Christmas Party** – the annual GENESIS Christmas Party is this Sunday, December 9th at 6:30PM. Invite your friends to join you for a great evening of food, fellowship and GENESIS Got Talent. Learn more about the GENESIS Christmas Party and the many contests that you'll be able to enter at: www.genesisjourney.com/events/event/238

sunday worship gathering at 9am & 11AM www.genesisjourney.com