May 4/5, 2008

# Study Questions
# Why Heaven Matters Today

*Life After Death Series*

**I Corinthians 15:58**

Pastor Bryan Clark

## Opening Discussion

1. What have you learned about life after death in this series?

2. Has your view of life after death changed? Where did your previous views of Heaven come from?

3. What would you list as the three most common misconceptions people have about life after death?

## Bible Study

1. Review: What is the significance of Easter for cultivating a right view of life after death?

2. Why is the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus important to our theology of life after death?

3. What is Paul's conclusion at the end of I Corinthians 15:58? Why?

4. How might 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 correlate to the idea of a new heaven and new earth? What does Paul mean by "remain"? Why did Martin Luther say his understanding of the new heaven and earth make him want to go out and plant a tree?

5. According to Romans 8:21, we as believers, are in some way a symbol, a picture of the redemption coming to all creation. In other words, in the believer, the future has come to the present in a symbolic way. Paul says the same when he refers to believers as "citizens of heaven" awaiting the return of Christ (Phil. 3:20). If this is true, then our "labor in Christ" (I Cor. 15:58) is bringing a heavenly value system to this world today as a glimpse of what is to come. What might this mean:

    a. At work? What professions might continue in the new earth?
    b. With social concerns
    c. The environment
    d. In the fine arts

6. How is this view of heaven different from one that creates an "escapism" mindset about this world?

## Application

1. What is the single most profound change in your thinking about heaven from this series?
2. How does this change in your thinking effect how you live today?
3. What one specific thing will you do differently now as a result of this series?

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