

ETERNITY 101



Study Guide for Group or Individual Use

Developed by Eternal Perspective Ministries



BASED ON THE DVD CLASS TAUGHT BY
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Note for leaders


We recommend group members read the questions before viewing each session, as it may be helpful for them to write in their answers as they watch.

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Eternal Perspective Ministries

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Session 1

1. Before watching this session, what did you think Heaven was like? (e.g., boring, harp playing, perpetual church services, an endless singing of hymns, etc.)

2. Perhaps in the past you have aligned yourself with the health, wealth and prosperity gospel. What Scripture does Randy use to refute this “gospel”?

3. Randy states that these teachings on Heaven are not his new ideas. Among all the quotes Randy shared, which one challenged you most? How has it challenged you?

4. What hope is found in Isaiah 25:7-8 and Revelation 21:4? Have you ever shared this hope or hung onto it while experiencing a difficult trial?

5. For all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ doing the Heaven study, in what way have you been more emboldened in your faith to share the good news and tell of your future home on the New Earth?

Reflections

Session 2

1. What evidence in Scripture is there to show that believers will recognize people in Heaven?

2. What truth was Randy emphasizing by going to the other side of the door? Is this a concept that has perplexed you before?

3. Draw the Heaven timeline presented by Randy. What new understanding do you have about this visual that encourages you?

4. What two basic Scriptures does Randy mesh together to help us to better understand Heaven?
(Hint: the first two chapters and the last two chapters of the Bible!)

5. Share what your favorite question from the Question/Answer section was, and what you learned.

Reflections

Session 3

1. What did you learn from Hebrews 9:11 and 9:24 about Heaven? How does this encourage you in your pursuit of learning and sharing about Heaven?

2. Have you ever thought about the Tree of Life and where it is now? What do you observe in Genesis 3:24, Revelation 2:7, and Revelation 22:2, and what does this tell you about Heaven?

3. What causes Randy to think the story of the rich man and Lazarus is to be understood as more than a parable?

4. Revelation 6:9-11 has a wealth of information on what is happening in the present Heaven. What are 10 things about Heaven's activities we can learn from this passage? What is the most encouraging thing you learn from these verses? Does anything in these verses trouble or concern you? How?

5. Scripture states that God will wipe away all of our tears (Revelation 21:4). What did Randy suggest instead of there being a "memory wipe" (not remembering things that would cause us to cry)? Did you find comfort in this idea?

Reflections

Session 4

1. State at least one Scripture where God sent someone back from the present Heaven. Were they recognizable? Were they knowledgeable about earthly situations? How has this affected previous thoughts you may have had about Heaven?

2. Examine the “Three Eras of Earth and Mankind” chart. (You can find a printable chart online at www.epm.org/threeras.) What connections do you see between the first and last books of the Bible? What do these connections mean to you?

3. What Scriptures would you share with someone who does not understand the biblical teaching that God will renew the earth into a New Earth where God will dwell in his fullness?

4. Were your ideas about eternal rewards challenged? State some verses shared in this lesson that proclaim the importance of eternal rewards and how they differ from what is required for salvation.

5. How accurate is it to say: “This world is not our home”? Have you ever considered this statement to be true? Do you still see it the same way?

— Reflections —

Session 5

1. Read out loud Acts 3:21. According to this verse, what will God restore? How does this future restoration encourage you to faithfully press on in this present fallen world?

2. What did closed gates mean in the ancient world, and why will there be no closed gates on the New Earth?

3. List several things from Isaiah 65 that match up with Revelation 21 and 22. Which one encourages you today and why?

4. Did you understand how Isaiah 65 was a picture of the New Earth/New Heavens as well as a picture of the Millennial Kingdom? Name one thing you learned in this passage that cannot be on the New Earth.

5. What's one thing you learned from the Q&A's at the end of the session?

Reflections

Session 6

1. Jesus came not only to abolish the curse but to _____ the curse. What does this mean to you?

2. Randy quotes many other authors from other times to show that these teachings on Heaven are not “his own new” ideas. Share a quote you especially like, and how will it encourage you to live differently.

3. How did Randy refute the idea that there does not need to be a body in order for there to be a resurrection?

4. From this lesson, list some Bible verses that speak of the resurrection. Do you have trouble reading them literally instead of figuratively?

5. 1 Corinthians 15 talks about the resurrection of a spiritual body. What does this mean? Did you view a spiritual body as something different before this lesson?

Reflections

Session 7

1. The topic of Hell is a difficult one. According to Matthew 13:40-42, what is Hell's purpose?

2. Hell is as eternal as _____. Does this make you uncomfortable? What do you do when God says something that makes you uncomfortable?

3. What is Universalism? Is it biblical?

4. What are your thoughts on cremation?

5. What does Revelation 21:1-2 teach us about the New Jerusalem?

— Reflections —

Session 8

1. What is your understanding of the age of accountability?

2. What can we learn about Heaven from Luke 6:21 and 6:25?

3. To counteract the premise that Heaven will be boring, this statement was made: "Heaven is the happiness of God." What does this look like to you?

4. Based on 2 Peter 3:10, many believe that the earth will be annihilated. What Scriptures clarify this is NOT how 2 Peter 3:10 is to be best interpreted? How do we know from Scripture that the present day earth will be perfected?

5. Read the following statement: “When a caterpillar passes away, a butterfly emerges.” How did this statement connect with the Heaven study?

— Reflections —

Session 9

1. The Bible speaks of fullness of joy. What do you believe about Christian hedonism?

2. Do you struggle with the concept that God desires to give you rewards? Why or why not? Share a verse that confirms God rewards his children.

3. Look at Luke 12:37. Do you accept the truth that your Creator desires to serve you at the banquet? Why or why not?

4. State some verses that indicate that believers will one day have stewardship over the New Earth. Are these verses an encouragement to you?

5. Randy discussed the Lord's prayer. Did you learn anything new or different about this prayer of Jesus?

— Reflections —

Session 10

1. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 states, “The saints will judge the world.” As a believer, is this difficult for you to understand? List three verses that reveal that believers will have positions of authority on the New Earth.

2. What makes believers royalty?

3. In the ancient Hebrew mind how were seas understood? How will the seas be different on the New Earth?

4. Even if you are someone who doesn't like living in the city on this present earth, describe the New Jerusalem. Share what you look forward to seeing and experiencing there.

5. Share your favorite question from the Question/Answer section, and what you learned.

— Reflections —

Session 11

1. What evidence is there that on the New Earth we will be ourselves without the sinfulness of this earth?

2. How did Spurgeon's analogy of grieving the death of a loved one (as sending your children off to bed with the expectation that you would see them in the morning) resonate with you?

3. Although speculative, the question of what age will we be in Heaven is an interesting one. What do you think about it and why?

4. In Heaven the believer will be free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the presence of sin. How does this truth encourage you to share the gospel with others?

5. In Heaven everyone and everything will be perfectly pure. What about Heaven makes you the most excited?

Reflections

Session 12

1. What do you think about the only marriage in Heaven being that between Christ and His bride, the Church?

2. What verses show us God cares for animals?

3. What do you learn from Romans 8 about the resurrection of man and animals?

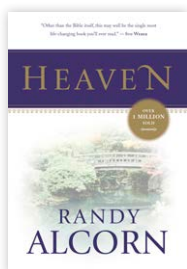
4. Were you inspired by reading about how God delights in the arts and has given gifts to craftsmen?

5. In light of all you've learned about Heaven, what truths will you boldly share with others?

— Reflections —

List of Helpful Resources

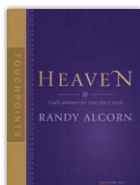
Books and Products from Randy Alcorn



Heaven

In the most comprehensive and definitive book on Heaven to date, Randy invites you to picture Heaven the way Scripture describes it—a bright, vibrant, and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering, and death, and brimming with Christ’s presence.

Learn more and read an excerpt at www.epm.org/heavenbook.



Touchpoints: Heaven

Inspired by Randy Alcorn’s comprehensive book *Heaven*, this reference guide contains biblically based answers to many questions about Heaven. Question and answer format, with a topical index.

Learn more and read an excerpt at www.epm.org/touchpoints.



Heaven booklets (pack of 20)

This booklet is a sampling of the questions and answers found in the larger book and is used widely at memorial services and funerals, and as an evangelistic tool with friends and neighbors. (Also available for purchase as single copies.)

Learn more and read an excerpt at www.epm.org/heavenbooklet.



Heaven tracts (pack of 25)

Randy explains that Heaven isn’t our “default destination” and that specific preparation must be made if we are to safely arrive in Heaven.

Learn more and read the tract at www.epm.org/heaventract.

See a complete list of Randy’s books at www.epm.org/books.

Explore more resources on the EPM website

At www.epm.org/resources/heavenpastors, pastors and group leaders can find more helpful resources on the topic of Heaven.

There are many more articles and audio and video resources related to Heaven and the New Earth on EPM’s website at www.epm.org/resources/category/heaven.



eternal perspective ministries

with author Randy Alcorn

Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) is a Bible-believing, Christ-centered nonprofit organization with two goals:

- to teach the principles of God’s Word, emphasizing an eternal viewpoint;
- to reach the needy in Christ’s name, calling attention to the needs of the unreached, unfed, unsupported, unborn, unreconciled, and untrained.

EPM is the recipient of the author royalties from Randy Alcorn’s books, and 100% are given away for ministry purposes: 90% to other worthy Christian organizations and 10% to EPM to help offset the costs related to the writing/researching/editing of the books, as well as to help facilitate the giving away of our books to people all over the world. We love the fact that God uses Randy’s books to change people’s lives in two ways: through the reading of his words and through the giving away of his royalties.

You can order all of Randy’s books and products through EPM’s online store at www.epm.org/store. (The EPM website also has many free resources, including articles, audio, video, pastors’ kits, and more.) When you purchase Randy’s books from EPM, the profits go directly to support the work of the ministry and fund our operating expenses.

Several times a year, EPM produces *Eternal Perspectives*, a full-color magazine filled with thought-provoking and informative articles, most authored by Randy, on a variety of subjects related to Christian living, Heaven, giving, missions, and much more. EPM also sends a periodic email newsletter with the latest news about Randy’s books, projects, and speaking events, as well as special promotions from EPM. You can subscribe at www.epm.org/subscribe.

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So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
— 2 Corinthians 4:18