

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ What makes heaven easy for you to believe in? How often do you think about heaven? Take a moment to make a list of one word descriptions of heaven (e.g. – “peaceful”) What do you look forward to most about it? What do you wish you understood better about it? What’s the first thing you think you’ll do in Heaven?
- ❖ Read Colossians 3:2-3. Is it possible to be so “heavenly minded” that you’re no “earthly” good? What practical difference in your life these past few weeks would practicing this passage have made for you? How about in the upcoming few weeks?
- ❖ Is there a comment Steve made in this message that you’ve found yourself thinking about? Disagreeing with? Wanting to dig into scripture to learn more about?
- ❖ What passages of scripture from this message spoke powerfully to you? Is there one you or your group would like to memorize together?
- ❖ Review the description of believers’ eternal future found in Revelation 21:1-5 and 21:22-22:5. What do you notice that stands out most to you? What in these images is worth meditating on this week?
- ❖ How will you respond differently to pain and the hurts of others because of this “Tears” series of messages and the small group discussions?

Bible Versions used: **KJV**-King James; **NKJV**-New King James; **NIV**-New International; **NCV**-New Century; **TLB**-Living Bible; **NLT**-New Living Translation; **Msg**-The Message; **GW**-God’s Word; **TEV**-Today’s English; **CEV**-Contemporary English; **NAS** - New American Standard; **NJB**-New Jerusalem Bible; **HCSB**-Holman Christian Standard; **Phi**-Phillips Translation; **Amp**-Amplified Bible; **NRSV**-New Revised Standard

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Tears

WHERE IS GOD WHEN IT HURTS?



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Not Worth Remembering!

Psalms 56:8 (NLT) “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”

Romans 8:18 (NIV) “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Why we’ll be able to forget

1. Our _____ will

_____.

Isaiah 65:17-18 (NIV) “Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create...”

Revelation 21:1-5 (NIV) “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

2. God’s _____!

_____!

Psalms 16:11 (NIV) “You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

3. We’ll _____ of this life.

☛ **Enjoying** _____.

Romans 8:19-21 (NIV) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

☛ **Exceeding** _____

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NIV) No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NIV) "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell."

☛ **Understanding** _____

1 Corinthians 13:12 (GW) Now we see a blurred image in a mirror. Then we will see very clearly. Now my knowledge is incomplete. Then I will have complete knowledge as God has complete knowledge of me.

4. Our _____ **will** _____.

☛ **Our** _____ **will** _____.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 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."

Colossians 3:2-4 (NLT) Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

5. Our _____ **will** _____
_____!