

PASTOR'S NOTES

Heaven: God with Us Forever

Revelation 21:3-7

In the Babylonian exile, God's people, who once joyfully settled in the land of promise, were now marched away from their homes. It was not just a geopolitical shock; it was a theological and identity earthquake.

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. (Psalm 137:1 ESV) This was the cry of a people displaced, aching not just for homeland but for the presence of God that once filled the temple. All the while, God's prophets kept speaking, pointing them to a future.

Ezekiel offered God's astounding promise: *My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* (Ezekiel 37:27 ESV)

Of course, the exile and return pointed forward to a far greater restoration.

The prophets taught the exiles, and they teach us, to lift our eyes beyond the rubble and ruins of our world, calling us to be present in this world, while looking forward to our eternal destiny, which is made possible by the grace of God extended to us through his Son, Jesus.

In Heaven, God will dwell with his people.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." (Revelation 21:3 ESV)

The center of heaven's glory is the unbroken presence of God himself. The voice proclaimed: Look, God's home is now with his people! He will live with them.

From Genesis to Revelation, the storyline of the Bible is God's pursuit of dwelling with his people. And the crescendo is expressed in the completion found in Revelation 21. God will dwell with us face to face in a resurrected, glorified world.

Seven hundred years before Christ was born in the flesh, the prophet Isaiah spoke of him, saying his name will be called Immanuel. Matthew explicitly connects that prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 to the birth of Jesus, writing: ²² *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).* (Matthew 1:22-23 ESV)

Jesus, God the Son, came to dwell among us in order to become the substitutionary sacrifice for us, to redeem us, and to reconcile all things to himself. He died, was buried, rose again, and ascended to the right hand of God the Father to prepare a place for us and receive us unto himself that where he is we will be also.

The pinnacle of the restored creation is anything created; it is God himself—his glorious and abiding presence.

In Heaven, God will wipe away every tear.

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4 ESV)

Think of all the reasons we weep in this life, including the ache of grief, the sting of betrayal and brokenness, the suffering of sickness, injury, and chronic pain, the heartache of sin, and the burden of living in a fallen world.

All of these will be no more. Death, the great enemy, is cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14). And the beauty here is not just the removal of sorrow, but the permanence of joy. (Isaiah 35:10).

In Heaven, God will make all things new.

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:5 ESV)

This is one of the most sweeping statements in all of Scripture. The One seated on the throne, Christ Jesus, declares that he is making everything new.

Think of what that means:

- New creation
- New bodies
- New relationships
- New joy

Notice also the authority behind this promise: *He who was seated on the throne said.* . .

In Heaven, God will give the faithful their spiritual inheritance.

⁶ *And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."* (Revelation 21:6-7 ESV)

Notice the finality of the words *It is done!* Just as Jesus cried "*It is finished*" on the cross when redemption was purchased, here at the consummation of history, the victorious Christ declares that redemption has reached its completion.

The work of salvation is not only accomplished but gloriously applied in full.

Our inheritance is described in three ways:

1. **The water of life**
2. **The heritage of the conqueror**
3. **The intimacy of family**

This inheritance is for those who repent and believe in Christ. It is for the thirsty who come to Him with empty hands and open hearts. *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him* (John 3:36 ESV).



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, September 14, 2025 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



MARK LOWRY
LIVE
IN CONCERT

SEPTEMBER 18
6:30 PM

Known for his incredible humor & heartfelt songs, Mark will bring an unforgettable night of laughter & inspiration. Joining him on stage is the talented group Endless Highway, blending Southern gospel harmonies with uplifting performances. It's going to be an amazing evening of music, joy, and faith-filled fun. *For ALL ages!*

TICKETS available at MBCHURCH.COM/MARK | \$25.00



WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Gathering at The Well
Building Your Home

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
6:30 PM in the Worship Center

Cost of **\$15** includes:
Admission, dessert, your own copy of our
MeadowBrook Cookbook "Hospitality from the Heart"

Register on the MeadowBrook App
or at mbchurch.com



Guest Speaker: Rondie Wilks
Pastor's Wife, mother and "Gigi"
from Northpark Baptist Church in Trussville



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
2:00 pm - Women on Mission - Conference Center
5:00 pm - Deacons Meeting - Conference Center

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall
10:00 am - Grief Share - Conference Center
10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Okra, Pintos, Mexican Cornbread or Salad with a Protein, Dessert; Kids: Pizza & Chips)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Wednesday Breakout Groups, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10 am - Threads of Love Knit/Crochet - Conference Center
6:30 pm - Mark Lowry Concert - Worship Center



Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE** gift!



Women on Mission

TODAY • 2:00 PM • Conference Center

Our guest speaker will be Eddie Nichols.
Christmas backpacks will be given out for our October collection



55+ Sunday Lunch
"Lead the Way for International Missions"

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 11:35 AM | COST: \$10

Fuel your heart and feed your soul at our luncheon with guest Speaker, Jeff Ginn. Last year, we sparked a mission-focused movement that led MeadowBrook to make a huge impact in supporting Southern Baptist international missionaries. This year, we're keeping that fire burning! The food will be fantastic, but the cause is even greater—helping us continue to spread hope and love across the globe. Join us for a meal that nourishes and a mission that matters.

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Rob Morris, Kyle Hughes, Bob Cross, Margie Martin, Martha Vaughn, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Scott Watford, Thea Durbin, Destiny Nixon, Linda Dees, Tommy Thompson, Rickey Hampton, Anna Rae Wilson

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Linda Riley, Susan Mize, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Peggy Brizendine, David Draper, Archie Wade, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey

• Jon Gilliland & family in the loss of his father, Eddie Gilliland

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

It's no too late to join us for our 2025 Fall Wednesday Breakouts.

For a listing of our classes, visit: mbchurch.com/wednesday-breakout-groups

2025 DAILY BIBLE READING

September 14 - 2 Samuel 12:1-15
September 15 - 2 Samuel 12:16-31
September 16 - 2 Samuel 13:1-20
September 17 - 2 Samuel 13:21-39

September 18 - 2 Samuel 14
September 19 - 2 Samuel 15
September 20 - 2 Samuel 16:1-14

