



(Re)Imagine Heaven

*Week 3 | Half Truths about Heaven | Teacher: Jordan Raynor
Sermon Questions for 4.26.2026*

OPENER

Most people spend more time planning a one-week vacation than thinking about eternity. Because of that, many of our assumptions about heaven are shaped more by culture than by Scripture.

This sermon challenges four common “half-truths” about heaven and replaces them with deeper, more complete truths from God’s Word. What’s at stake isn’t just theological accuracy—it’s **our sense of purpose today and our hope for the future**. When we understand what God is actually preparing, it doesn’t just change how we think about eternity—it changes how we live right now.

MAIN POINTS

1. Earth Is Not Just Temporary—It Will Be Renewed and Made Permanent

It is true that believers go to be with God when they die, but that is not the final destination. Scripture teaches that God will bring heaven down to a **renewed earth**, where His people will live forever in resurrected bodies. This means God is not abandoning creation but redeeming it—restoring what was broken rather than replacing it. The future is not an escape from earth, but the transformation of it into what it was always meant to be. Because of this, the physical world—and what we do in it—matters deeply to God.

2. The New Earth Is More Than a Return to Eden

While the New Earth restores what was lost in Eden, it is not simply a reset—it is an **expansion and fulfillment** of God’s original design. Scripture points to a future where God’s creation is combined with the redeemed work of human culture—art, craftsmanship, and meaningful contributions brought into the New Jerusalem. This reveals that human creativity and work have lasting value in God’s plan. The future is not just about restoration, but about **glory, growth, and completion**. This should expand our vision of eternity beyond simplicity into something rich and dynamic.

3. Worship in Eternity Is Active, Not Passive

While we will worship God forever, worship is not limited to singing—it includes **working, creating, ruling, and reigning with Christ**. From the beginning, God designed humans to work as an act of worship, and that calling continues into eternity. The New Earth will involve meaningful, joyful, and purposeful activity without sin, frustration, or futility. Our future is not passive or boring, but deeply fulfilling and engaging. This reframes our current work as preparation for an eternal calling rather than something temporary or insignificant.

4. We Are Called to Actively Participate While We Wait

“Keeping watch” for Christ’s return does not mean passively waiting—it means actively engaging in the work God has given us. Jesus’ teaching makes it clear that faithfulness is demonstrated through **action, stewardship, and participation in His Kingdom work**. Our role is to live in such a way that we bring glimpses of heaven into our everyday environments—workplaces, homes, and communities. This includes both spiritual and practical contributions to the world around us. Waiting for eternity is not idle—it is **purposeful and mission-driven living**.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- Which “half-truth” about heaven do you think is most common in today’s culture? Why?
- How does the idea that **earth will be renewed (not discarded)** change the way you view your daily life and work?
- The sermon suggests that some of our work may carry into eternity. How does that affect the way you think about your vocation or daily responsibilities?
- What surprised you most about the idea that worship includes **work, creativity, and reigning with Christ**?
- Why do you think many people view heaven as boring or passive? How does this sermon challenge that perception?
- The message reframes “waiting” for Jesus as active participation. What does that look like practically in your current season of life?
- What is one area of your life where you could begin living with greater **eternal purpose** this week?

BOTTOM LINE

God is not abandoning this world—He is redeeming it, and when we understand that eternity is a renewed, purposeful life with Christ, it transforms how we live today.