



(Re)Imagine Heaven

*Week 7 | In Light of Eternity | Teacher: Cynthia Yanof
Sermon Questions for 5.24.2026*

OPENER

Most people think of salvation primarily as something about the future—going to heaven after we die. But this message reframes salvation as something much more immediate and transformative: **heaven coming down into our lives right now.** Paul describes believers as “jars of clay”—ordinary, fragile, imperfect containers carrying the extraordinary treasure of the gospel. The beauty of the Christian life is not that we become impressive vessels, but that the life of Jesus shines through our cracks, weaknesses, and surrendered lives. This sermon invites us to stop polishing the outside and instead become available, empty, and surrendered so that Christ can be seen through us.

READ

2 Corinthians 4:7–18

MAIN POINTS

1. Know Your Treasure

Paul reminds believers that the true treasure is not ourselves, but the gospel and the light of Christ living within us. Christianity is not simply about securing a future destination in heaven, but about experiencing the transforming power of Jesus in the present. The Kingdom of God comes into our everyday lives, changing us from the inside out. Before Paul addresses behavior, he addresses belief—because transformation begins by understanding what we already possess in Christ. When we know the value of the treasure within us, we stop trying to find our worth in outward appearance, success, or performance.

2. Embrace Your Cracks

The image of “jars of clay” highlights our weakness, ordinariness, and limitations. God intentionally chooses fragile vessels so that His power—not ours—gets the glory. The sermon challenges the tendency to treat the “jar” as the treasure by focusing on image, performance, or religious appearance rather than inner surrender. Instead of trying to look impressive, believers are invited to become empty and available for God to fill.

Our cracks are not obstacles to God’s work—they are often the very places where the life of Jesus shines through most clearly.

3. Expect to Be Pressed

Paul describes believers as hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down—but never abandoned or destroyed. Following Jesus does not remove suffering; it often places believers directly in situations where dependence on Christ becomes necessary. Yet the “but not” moments become testimonies of God’s sustaining power. The sermon points to examples like Paul’s imprisonment and Stephen’s persecution to show that suffering can actually advance the gospel. In Christ, even painful experiences are not wasted but become redemptive opportunities through which others encounter Jesus.

4. Reframe Your Affliction Through Eternity

Paul describes present suffering as “light and momentary” compared to the eternal glory that is coming. He is not minimizing pain, but placing it in the context of eternity and hope. Because believers know Jesus and have heaven awaiting them, suffering does not have the final word. The message reminds us that hope changes how we endure hardship and that God often uses suffering to deepen our dependence on Him and increase eternal impact. Eternal perspective allows believers to endure temporary struggles without losing heart.

5. Fix Your Eyes on What Is Eternal

The Christian life is shaped by what we focus on. Paul calls believers to fix their eyes not on what is seen and temporary, but on what is unseen and eternal. As Jesus transforms us from the inside out, believers begin to love differently, prioritize differently, and live on mission differently. The sermon emphasizes that God builds His Kingdom not primarily through platforms, charisma, or outward success, but through faithful people who quietly carry Jesus into everyday spaces. When believers focus on eternity, their homes, relationships, resources, and lives become places where others encounter the hope of Christ.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- What stood out to you most from the image of believers as “jars of clay”?
- The sermon says we often treat the vessel as the treasure. What are some ways our culture encourages that mindset?
- Why do you think God chooses imperfect and fragile people to carry His message?
- Paul describes being “hard pressed, but not crushed.” What are some “but not” moments where you’ve seen God sustain you through difficulty?
- How does an eternal perspective change the way we experience suffering, disappointment, or setbacks?

- The sermon emphasized loving differently, prioritizing differently, and living on mission differently.
Which of those areas challenges you most right now?
- What would it look like practically this week to “fix your eyes on what is unseen” instead of only what is temporary?

BOTTOM LINE

God does not work through perfect people, but through surrendered “jars of clay” who carry the treasure of Christ and keep their eyes fixed on eternity.