

Let's Discuss...Salvation

PART 3_Heaven, Hell & Tattoos



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Scriptures mentioned:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...
Revelation 21:1a ESV

See, I have tattooed your name upon my palm...
Isaiah 49:16a TLB

And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name inscribed, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."
Revelation 19:16 AMP

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
Matthew 4:17 NKJV

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Episode Summary

In this episode, we discuss both the eternal implications of salvation (regarding heaven and hell) and the effect of salvation on our lives now. Although we look forward to the kingdom of heaven being established here on Earth, we pull the concept down from a faraway ideal, to something that transforms our present reality. Salvation is more than a checklist to get into heaven but should act as a turning point in the here and now, pushing us to follow in the footsteps of Christ in all we do. And very importantly, we ponder whether we'll have tattoos in heaven!?

Let's Discuss...

- What is the impact of salvation on our lives, both eternally and in the here and now?

The [appointed period of] time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God's purpose for your life] and believe [with a deep, abiding trust] in the good news [regarding salvation].
Mark 1:14 AMP

- Revelations 7 gives us a snapshot of what an eternal dwelling place with God could look like. What are your thoughts on heaven and hell? How have Scripture and culture shaped and influenced your thoughts.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
Revelations 7:9-10 ESV

- Does the idea of eternity play a big part in your faith and how you live life?
 - » FYI, "**eschatology**" is the term used to denote the area of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.
- In Matthew 4:17 ESV Jesus is quoted as declaring, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" How do you understand Christ's statement that the "kingdom of heaven is at hand"?
- How does your understanding of the nature and character of God shape your conception of heaven and hell? From preachers on street corners to church services on a Sunday, discuss how the Church has historically communicated their beliefs on eternity.
 - » "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next."
Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*

Let's Pray...

Reflect on this excerpt from the Lord's Prayer, in which Jesus teaches us how to pray:

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10 ESV

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- Join Jesus and the Church across the earth who have prayed this prayer, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” throughout the centuries. Pray for a holy dissatisfaction with the notion that we won’t see God’s kingdom until after we die, and for opportunities to help bring His kingdom into our present reality.

Let's Go Deeper...

- *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn [book]
- *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis [book]
- *Paradise Now with Tim Mackie* by 24-7 Prayer USA [video]
- *Theology of Hope* by Jurgen Moltmann [book]
- *Heaven and Earth* series by BibleProject [podcast]
- *Heaven and Earth* biblical theme by BibleProject [video]
- *Heaven and Earth* by BibleProject Classroom [online course]