

WELCOME TO THE
GREATER RENO
CHURCH OF CHRIST

S E R M O N O U T L I N E & B U L L E T I N

Sunday, March 13, 2022



Today's Study Focus: Heaven Matters Right Here, Right Now - Recent polls suggest that nearly 80% of all Americans believe there is a place called heaven. I find that statistic encouraging because it tells me that even in this skeptical age there is something deep inside the human heart that cries out, "There's got to be something more. Something more than the pain and suffering of this life. Something more than 70 or 80 years on planet earth. Something more than being born, living, dying, and then being buried in the ground. The only things we can know for certain about heaven are the things revealed in the Bible. The Bible tells us everything we need to know and I believe it also tells us everything we can know for certain about heaven. After all, if you're wrong about heaven, you're going to be wrong for a long time. **Ray Pritchard**

Reaching Heavenward Requires Starting Where It All Started Genesis 1:1-5 - The Spirit of God hovering over the waters.

- 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:3-7

"by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water":

"by the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment":

☑ **"By God's word the heavens came"**: Peter's point is that things on this earth have not always continued the way they are now. The earth was different when God first created it and then it was different again after the flood. Therefore no one should scoff at God's promise that He will make it different once again, judging it not with water but with fire. The same word of God that created all matter and judged the world in the flood will one day bring a judgment of fire upon the earth. Enduring Word Bible Commentary

Forward Thinking Is Thinking About A New Heaven And A New Earth Revelation 21:1-4 - He wipes away every tear.

- 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:8-9
- 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 2 Peter 3:10
- 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:11-13

"he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish":

"you ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming":

"we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells":

Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.

Don Piper

Scripture Passages For Further Personal Study: Hebrews 10:19-25 The Day approaching. Hebrews 10:32-39 You have better and lasting possessions.




The International Churches of Christ are a fellowship of over 800 churches with more than 100,000 faithful members around the world committed to knowing God and making Him known as He is revealed in the Scriptures. The Greater Reno Church is very proud to be a part of this global church family and community. For more inspiration and information about the work of our churches across the nation and beyond, please go to disciplestoday.org



Seattle Teen Shares Testimony Narine Fote, Teen Disciple -Seattle Church of Christ

At 18 years old, I was baptized in the teen ministry of the Seattle Church of Christ .

I was adopted at age four from an orphan  Armenia. I had many struggles in my early years, like learning English and a new culture. When I was 13, a family invited my family to their family group. My older sister Francesca who was 15 started studying the Bible right away. She was baptized shortly after and this made me start thinking about God.

I was always shy and scared to meet new people. When I was around others, I would hide in the corner and not want to talk to them. I didn't understand why people prayed to God, studied the Bible and got baptized, but I wanted to know. In my pursuit of God, I continued to come to church and meet people. My mom introduced me to an older woman in the church named Tammy Fleming. She was in town for a year and committed to studying the Bible with me. She became my mentor. Because English was not my first language, I really struggled to understand the context and meaning of the Bible.

I was able to develop a friendship with Tammy and get to know her better. She helped me to connect with God. When she moved, it felt like both she and God abandoned me. I realized I had trust issues and stopped studying the Bible. I struggled a lot with anxiety and depression, as well as in my academics. It was extremely hard for me to make friends. I was also bullied a lot which brought me down at times.

I hadn't really been to many teen events up to this point. I decided to go to teen camp and it changed my life. After that week of being at camp, getting to know people, and hearing people's stories and testimonies, I decided to try studying the Bible again. I wanted to put God first. I texted my camp counselor Madeleine about my desire to study the Bible. I was excited to connect with God more than ever and have a better relationship with Him. I wanted to get to know his Son, Jesus. I learned from others about their relationship with God, which helped me to continue to pursue God no matter what. I knew I was making the best decision of my life.

My relationships with others are much better now. I know I'll continue to make mistakes and I will learn from them. Most importantly I know God loves me. I hope to one day study the Bible with another teen girl and help her have a relationship with God. My other dream is to help other teens in our church and be a support for them. I am so excited to continue to learn more about God each day.



Philadelphia HOPE Youth Corps Summer 2022

July 11 - July 23

We are excited to continue serving children from the inner city of Philadelphia through **Camp Miracles** and to join One Day At A Time (ODAAT) in their passion for aiding people with drug and alcohol addiction. This is one of our oldest and longest-running HOPE Youth Corps (HYC) with many years of experience. Many children growing up in the inner city of Philadelphia don't have access to the luxuries and experiences many of us take for granted. The team at ODAAT serves hundreds of men and women recovering from addiction. Joining their efforts would be beneficial to both the team and those who are served. Service to children from the inner city of Philadelphia, and to those recovering from addiction at ODAAT.

- **Volunteers:** Teens (minimum age 15) and campus students.
- **All Meals & Lodging** - 13 days/nights: \$1,125 (not including flights)
- **Registration/Payment Deadline:** May 25, 2022

