

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 20, 2022



Today's Study Focus: Heaven Matters Right Here, Right Now Part 3 - 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

Follow The Example Of Jesus Taking Solid Steps Toward Heaven 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 - Being transformed into His image.

- 1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1,2

"follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love"

"Follow God's example": The idea is simple – that we are to make God our example and model. We must heed the idea of 1 Peter 1:15-16: as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." This is a call to action. Enduring Word Bible Commentary

Making The Most Of Every Opportunity Is A Heavenly Opportunity Philippians 3:20,21 - Our citizenship is in Heaven.

- 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person – such a person is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Ephesians 5:3-14
- 15 Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:15-20

"live as children of light and find out what pleases the Lord...be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise...":

"live...making the most of every opportunity (as a believer), because the days (on earth in this present time) are evil":

"understand what the Lord's will is...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit...sing and make music from your heart to the Lord":

"Making the most of every opportunity": There were two ancient Greek words used for 'time' (opportunity). One had the idea simply of day upon day and hour upon hour. The other had the idea of a definite portion of time, a time where something should happen. It is the difference between 'time' and 'the time'. The idea here is of 'the time'; it is a definite season of opportunity that Christians must redeem. Enduring Word Bible Commentary

Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.

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



HOPE worldwide

Hawaii HOPE Single Corps September 15 - September 22

Not only does Aloha mean hello and goodbye, the Hawaiian word "alo" means "presence" or "share," and the word "ha" means "breath of life" or "essence of life." We invite you to come experience the Aloha and take it with you when you return home. Hawai'i ranks #1 as the state with the most endangered species. It also has a growing homeless population. Partner with us in our efforts to serve the community and work the land to incorporate sustainable farming practices. In Hawaii, the idea of loving and caring for the land is very important and central to the island culture. The phrase "malama 'aina" is common and can be seen on signs throughout the islands. The Hawaiian word malama means "to care for or preserve, protect, and maintain," and 'aina refers to "land." During your stay, you will serve and also learn about the Hawaiian culture, see breathtaking landscapes and beaches, encourage the fellowship and most importantly, leave with a renewed sense of "ohana." Ohana means family (blood-related, adoptive or intentional). Our goal at HSC Hawai'i is to have every participant leave the island feeling renewed and refreshed.



- **Volunteers:** Singles of all ages (minimum 18 years)
- **All Meals & Lodging** - 8 days/nights: \$1,305 (not including flights)
- **Registration/Payment Deadline:** August 5, 2022

Ecuador HOPE Volunteer Corps July 1 - July 14



The volunteers will serve in the rural area of Cunuyacu, about three hours away from the capital, Quito. They will serve with two main projects: 1) the setting up of a library for the children of the community. Anyone with library or literacy experience will be most welcome. 2) a sustainable agriculture program (CULTIVA) in partnership with DRAIS Foundation. This is an educational program where HOPEww teaches the community to grow and market their own food. Anyone with agriculture or business background skills would be helpful, but anyone with a willing heart can serve. This is a Spanish-speaking program, so fluency in Spanish is strongly encouraged in order to effectively connect with the local community. We will accept a limited number of non-Spanish-speaking volunteers, but it will be on a first-come, first-served basis. We are especially interested in educators, librarians, and anyone with agriculture or business skills, although anyone with a heart to serve will be able to contribute.

- **Volunteers:** Adults of all ages (minimum 18 years)
- **All Meals & Lodging** - 13 days/nights: \$1,080 (not including flights)
- **Registration/Payment Deadline:** May 20, 2022

Philadelphia HOPE Youth Corps 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