

0 (0s):

Well, good morning, everybody. It's so good to see you guys online and in person, my name is now also, if I haven't had a chance to meet you yet, I am the lead pastor here, and I do want to get a chance to meet you. So if you can, if you're new here online, or in person go to [rice, denver.com/connect](https://denver.com/connect), we have a little form that says I'm new. Just press that button, fill out that form. And I would love to get to know you what we do for every new person who fills out one of those forms. We give \$5 to the Denver rescue mission. So it's a gift in your name to someone else that's maybe on the streets or needed a meal. So, so do that. I want to connect with you. We are going to jump into our new series, but I just want to put in a little plugs first before we do, because we need some of you to step up and serve some somewhere. Okay.

0 (41s):

We, we believe that it is what we're supposed to do as a body of Christ to serve somewhere. And we were just asking, even if you're brand new, you're like, I'm just checking out this church. This is a great way to get to know people serving alongside us. And we have some needs. We have just more and more people coming back in person. And we just want to, you know, put out our ministries, like we should be doing it or what we were doing pre pandemic. So we need to be able to step up. We also have some really key volunteers that we love that are moving away. So we also just need to fill in some holes so we could use your, your help. So I got four areas, ministry. Yeah. Areas that we need specifically helping. But if you don't want these four, that's okay. You can still serve. So what I want you guys to do, if you have your phone, go ahead and pull it out.

0 (1m 23s):

Yes. You can pull out your phone right now and go to [arise. denver.com/connect](https://denver.com/connect). That one page [arise, denver.com/connect](https://denver.com/connect) with your online or in person. You can get your phone out and do it. That is kind of our one-stop shop. Pretty much all the stuff that are going on. If you go there, you can click on a button and fill out a form and we'll get you the information. So if you fill out the form that says, serve somewhere, just one little button, you press that button and you feel like, Hey, I might be interested in these one, two, three areas. We're going to send you information. It's not like an obligation that you're gonna have to serve for the rest of your life there. Okay. But you can come and check it out. We'll give you information. See, is this what I thought it was? So these are the four areas where we need some people to step up and serve somewhere. Number one, with elevate kids, we have incredible kids ministry here. We invest in the next generation, but because of pandemic, we've had less kids and therefore we've kind of combined some classes well with more kids coming back and we want to go back to our full slate of class offerings.

0 (2m 13s):

So kids can be in an area that's specifically designed for that age. They can hear a lesson specifically designed for them. So we need more people to step up with elevate kids. So if you love kids, if you like kids, if you just want to invest in the next generation, make sure you click that button for elevate kids. If you're saying, Hey, I don't know if I can serve on Sundays, but maybe you could serve in the week setting up prepping for the Sunday. So even if you don't like kids, you should serve the elevate kids. If you can like,

Hey, I can handle a few tasks and put it makes some photocopies and cut, cut some stuff out. So go to elevate kids on that, serve somewhere for them. Fill that one out. So that's the first area. The second area is the worship and tech team. We have three vocalists that we love that are moving away this spring, and we're going to miss them dearly.

0 (2m 56s):

And we also have an incredible sound tech, Ben, wherever Ben is, and he's going to be

1 (3m 0s):

Moving away in a month. So with that,

0 (3m 2s):

I just want to plug some holes. We want to get other people involved. So if you are vocalists and instrumentalists, just want to learn how to play an instrument. Or if you love sound, you just love listening to music. You can we'll train you how to be a sound tech. If you can just press buttons on a computer keyboard, you can run slides. If you want to be a Hollywood producer, you can even set our new camera scenes. You know, there's some really cool ways to serve in our tech team. So if you go to elevate or I'm sorry, if you go to that serve summer forum, either click worship team or tech team, we could really use some help with that team. Third area

1 (3m 33s):

Cafe team, since

0 (3m 35s):

The pandemic started, we haven't had a costly and cafe area because we've been trying to keep everybody safe. But I think we want to relaunch that again. So with that, we need some people who are willing to bring in baked goods or bake something. We need people who can serve at that cafe and just have a smiling face and give a cup of coffee to somebody because I

1 (3m 52s):

Need more coffee, any more coffee?

0 (3m 55s):

I always used to drink a mid, mid service coffee between the two services. And I haven't been

1 (3m 58s):

Drinking that yet. Okay. I need more coffee,

0 (4m 2s):

Three kids. Now I need my coffee. Okay. So if you want to be part of the cafe team, yes. Thank you for those two years, make sure you click that. And then the fourth area, this is a new one. We have a new local outreach opportunities. So Denver rescue mission who we partner with,

1 (4m 14s):

We love reached out to us. And one of the things they want to do is prevent homelessness. I mean, that sounds good. So then they don't have to provide all the services when someone becomes homeless.

0 (4m 23s):

And what they're finding is refugee families especially need help. So what they're doing is providing financial support, but what they need is churches and a team from a church to come alongside these refugee families to help. So they reached out to us just this last week and said, Hey, we have a family that lives right,

1 (4m 38s):

Right next to the church, right down the street from us, a family of four that are Burmese refugees. You know where Burma is the country of me and Mar that's having a

0 (4m 47s):

Crazy set of conflict right now. Like every day in the news, there's like 80 more people killed

1 (4m 52s):

Protests. It's bad over there. And we often think

0 (4m 55s):

Like, there's nothing I can do about it. That's so far in the far East, I don't even know where me and Maurice, well, guess what, we can help them because they're here. They're refugees from that country who are down the street, a family for who needs our help. So they asked us to provide a mentoring team. So if you're interested in that you can partner with his family for a period of six months, just to get to know them, love them, encourage them, help them with some things, if they have questions.

1 (5m 16s):

And so with

0 (5m 18s):

Your team, you'll check on them once a month. Or w w you know, a few times in the month, depending on how we work it out with the team, we're still figuring this out, right? There'll be training online for how to do this. And you'll commit to these six months. Therefore the general rescue mission has the financial support. We'll just come along to provide the personal support. We can even invite them to church. And I love this family. I think this is a really cool opportunity at there. They asked us to help with, so I hope we get a few

people that can step up to, to serve with one of these. And they're probably a couple more families in the next few months as well, but we got this one right now that needs help. So you can click local outreach and clicked on the button that says refugee mentoring. If you're on that serve somewhere form. So everybody should do Islam. In-person online. These are the things you can do. Even if you're online, you're like, well, how do I serve with this?

0 (5m 59s):

We can figure out a way, even if you're not physically present to get you involved with these things, even with the refugee mentor, maybe it's to make phone calls and some send texts to encourage your family. Like, there's some great ways that you can serve whether you're in person or online. So even if you don't live in Colorado, you can serve. That's cool. Huh? Yeah. So I hope that you guys will do that. We want to encourage you to serve somewhere. I know some of you still have your phones out, and if you do, we're going to transition now to our time of giving, which also you can do on your phone or rides.denver.com/give, or we have these wooden boxes. Maybe you haven't even noticed them on the way out this door. And there's two on the way out through these double doors boxes on either side, you can drop off cash and checks. Cause we're not passing around a plate anymore. We don't want to pass around COVID or anything like that.

0 (6m 40s):

Right? So just drop your cash, Jack, drop your checks in those boxes. If you want to give, and we do encourage you to give, because God is doing stuff here, God is doing some amazing things. We had 466 people here in person last week. Yeah. That's pretty incredible. Through our C3 services, we had over 400 more. Join us online. Yes. I mean, that's incredible. And we saw over this last week, 10 people make decisions to follow Jesus for the first time. Yes, people are taking steps of faith. People want to get baptized. We're just so excited for that. And when you give, you made that happen. So you make that happen. You're a part of that. Every time that you give a dollar. So we encourage you to do that.

0 (7m 20s):

Maybe make a one-time gift because you hit in your tax return. You're getting your bike and check. Okay. Show share with the church a little bit. Okay. We could use the one-time gift or maybe it's time for you to become a regular giver. We encourage people to become part of our generosity team. And what that means is you're saying how many of \$25 a week or a hundred dollars a month, I'm going to set it up. So it's automated giving so that my church can rely on this and it can support the ministry that we're doing. So we encourage everybody to do that right now. So I'm going to say a prayer for offering right now. And then we are going to jump into our first week of better than you think. Let's pray, Lord God, I'm grateful for this morning that we can be together. Some of you are watching this, not in the morning and wherever they are whenever they are.

0 (8m 0s):

Lord. I'm just so grateful that we can be together as a church body to worship. And I pray right now, as we are volunteering, our time, our talents and our treasures to serve and to give Lord, I pray that you use our generous living to not only give us happiness and joy as we serve and give, but also to bless others. I pray that our church would just continue to make impact here locally and around the world, through the giving that we are participating in right now, I pray that you bless it. And then also help us to learn today, help us to grow. Pray that our mind would be open to understand our ears would be open to hear. And then our hearts would be open to believe in obey. As we hear from your word this morning, I pray this in Jesus name. Amen, man, better than you think better than you think today.

0 (8m 45s):

We're talking about heaven, talking about heaven, because what I have found is that a lot of people think heaven is going to be boring. I thought the same thing I remember about it as a kid. And I vividly remember this laying awake at night,

1 (8m 59s):

Thinking about heaven and how it's just going to be the same day over and over, over

0 (9m 8s):

Right. Just keeps going for endless Aternity. And I thought how

1 (9m 11s):

Boring I was scared of it as a kid, I'm going to be honest.

0 (9m 15s):

And for a lot of people, that's what they think of heaven. That it seems so

1 (9m 19s):

Boring to have endless Aternity of the same day again and again, and again, it,

0 (9m 25s):

The popular images of heaven would make it seem that way,

1 (9m 28s):

Way boring, and just kind of unearthly. I mean

0 (9m 31s):

About it, whether it's, you know, art or movies or TV shows or whatever, we see these depictions of heaven, it's like, someone's floating on clouds in diapers. That's the title of my message today. So honestly, that's like

the image you see, like, this is what people think of in our culture. When they think of heaven, floating on clouds and diapers that you're just floating around. Like just up there, like wait, and I've seen enough outer space movie.

1 (9m 54s):

No, I don't want to do that forever. I mean, it just makes me want to vomit even just thinking about it. And then the mom it's floating around all around. Oh, it doesn't sound fun. Right?

0 (10m 4s):

It's like on clouds and diapers, w there's these little fat pudgy babies with diapers on and having

1 (10m 10s):

Everywhere, I don't want to wear diapers. So I got three, two kids in diapers right now. I don't want, I don't want to wear diapers. And everybody's in white. You what's up with that. So I can like an N sync music video or something. Somebody is an fan. Okay.

0 (10m 29s):

I don't want to wear white forever. I mean, I think I would like a little bit of color, right? A few options, not just white roads or white diapers or whatever, just seems boring. And then it's the same thing over and over again. It's like this perpetual church service with Oregon music playing. I mean,

1 (10m 42s):

Man, the way our culture thinks about having it seems boring and awful.

0 (10m 46s):

Well, I think Isaac Asimov captures this, this sense of what people think about having very well. This is what he wrote that the science fiction author, he said, I don't believe in an afterlife. So I don't have to spend my whole life fearing hell or fearing heaven, even more for whatever the tortures of hell. I think the boredom of heaven would be

1 (11m 6s):

Even worse. That's what people think about what, or they don't want to believe in it. I

0 (11m 13s):

Even heard a pastor. I heard a pastor say, I'm afraid

1 (11m 15s):

Of heaven. It sounds like, hell. I mean, this is

0 (11m 21s):

What we think. And the way we see images of heaven depicted. No wonder why

1 (11m 25s):

It seems so awful. I don't want to do that forever. But I honestly think that this is like

0 (11m 33s):

Satan's way to get us to stop believing, honestly, because we have such a poor view of what heaven is. That's not at all like what the Bible is.

1 (11m 39s):

It says what we're going to learn today. Randy Elkhorn,

0 (11m 44s):

Christian author theologian. He has a great book called heaven.

1 (11m 47s):

I always recommend this book.

0 (11m 49s):

Good. It looks at all the scriptures in the Bible on heaven. And then uses that to say, Hey, what could have be like, it answers a bunch of questions we have or, or tries to provide the best answer we can have as we think about heaven. So I always recommend this book. It's great to just have on your shelf. If you have questions about heaven and in it, I'm going to reference him maybe a couple more times in this message. But in it, he says this, he says some of Satan's favorite lies

1 (12m 10s):

Or about heaven for Satan need not convince us that heaven doesn't exist. He needed

0 (12m 16s):

Only convince us that heaven is a place of boring, an earthly existence.

1 (12m 21s):

I think he's right. And that's

0 (12m 24s):

Why today we are going to combat those lies

1 (12m 26s):

From Satan to learn

0 (12m 28s):

About heaven as it really is, as, as told

1 (12m 31s):

Us from God and his word, we're going to learn today. And this is so good. You're going to remember this. You need to remember this. That heaven is life. As it was meant to be heaven is life as it was meant to be. So the way we're gonna live

0 (12m 48s):

And about heaven is by looking around at our life as, as the scriptures teach us and we're going to see some things and it's going to point us forward to what heaven is actually going to be like, not floating around wearing white.

1 (12m 60s):

It's gonna be so much better than that. So in this series

0 (13m 3s):

We're going to do is tackle a different topic over the next four weeks. We're calling this series better than you think. Because as in his first message, heaven is better than you think next week, we're going to talk about how you know, our salvation is better than you think it's not working super hard. Like you're climbing up Mount Everest and maybe I can make it to the top. No, no, no. Salvation is way better than you think. Then after that, we're going to talk about rules because everybody thinks Christianity is all about the rules. It's a straight jacket,

1 (13m 26s):

But Christianity

0 (13m 27s):

Is way better than you think in the last week, we're going to talk about us Christians. Because as Christians, we have a bad rap of being hateful, hypocrites that are

1 (13m 33s):

Outdated. And in that message, we're going to learn that Christians, the churches

0 (13m 37s):

Way better than you think. So in this message, I hope that we break some of these bad ideas we have. If you're joining us online, maybe you're not even a Christian, that's this great. This whole series is perfect for

you because we're going to combat a lot of the lies. People think about heaven, about it,

1 (13m 51s):

Christianity, about the church, and we're going to learn. Even Christians need to learn this stuff. I think even Christian.

0 (13m 58s):

So if you're joining us for the first time today or you're coming back after Easter, cause he, she was awesome. Whether online or in person, I want you to commit

1 (14m 5s):

To coming to these four weeks. Okay. You're

0 (14m 8s):

Already here. One, boom, you got it. You got three more weeks that I want you to commit to. So set your alarm now. Yeah. On our phones, we can say every Sunday I want to wake up at okay, all online. Maybe you're going to set a reminder and say, Hey, I'm gonna make sure that I watch every week because this series is going to be so important. As we do learn that it's so much

1 (14m 26s):

Better than you think. And today we're gonna learn about heaven. So if you have your Bible, go ahead and open it to Isaiah chapter 65, Isaiah chapter 65, we're going to start in verse 17 on your phone. You can get there in the YouVersion Bible app that happened.

0 (14m 41s):

It's really cool because we have an event for our church. You can search for and you can find just your eyes, search Denver. It has the scriptures. It has the points. You can take notes. You can save it onto your phone. You have that with you. So Isaiah chapter 65, we're going to go verse 17 all the way to 25 in that chapter as we learn, and we see this vision of heaven that comes from God's mouth through the prophet

1 (15m 2s):

Zia. So I'll start there in verse 17. See,

0 (15m 8s):

I will create, God says new

1 (15m 10s):

Heavens and a new earth.

0 (15m 13s):

See, I will create, he's telling us about something. He will do. That's coming in the future. I will create new heavens and a new

1 (15m 20s):

Earth. Some of your wondering what's wrong with the current heaven. Okay. So we're talking about today.

0 (15m 26s):

So I just want to make sure we're all on the same page as we talk about having, because people can mean a lot of different things when they talk about heaven. So right now, where are you

1 (15m 36s):

Earth? That's right. If you're not, I'll pray for you after the service.

0 (15m 40s):

We're on, we're on earth, right? We are in earth right now in this life. We are here on earth that as we're here

1 (15m 48s):

And see earth, okay, welcome to planet earth.

0 (15m 51s):

Some of you need that reminder. We are on earth. This is our life. As we're living this life

1 (15m 55s):

It's earth. Well, when we die, if you are a believer in Jesus, Christ

0 (16m 2s):

Are going to what often is referred to as happen. Okay? That's, that's kinda the next step. You die. You're a believer in Jesus Christ. You go to heaven. Jesus called it paradise to the man that was on the cross next to him. And he put his faith in Jesus Christ. At the very end, Jesus said today, you will be with me in paradise paradise. Paul, who has his own vision of heaven in Philippians chapter, one says to depart from the body to depart from earth is to be present with the Lord to be home with the Lord. That's the word home. So I like the word paradise. I liked the word home. That's what it talks about about this current heaven, where God lives. This is where God is reigning, where Jesus himself is raining on a throne where the angels are ministering to God.

1 (16m 44s):

And this is heaven, but theological,

0 (16m 46s):

Strictly speaking, we could call it the intermediate heaven, the intermediate heaven, or some people even call it the temporary heaven because God says I'll create a new heaven, right? So there's this intermediate heaven. We're not told a ton about what this is like in the scriptures a little bit here and there it's paradise. It's going to be at home. It's going to be awesome, but it's not actually as Christians. Our ultimate hope. What we are hoping for is the news

1 (17m 9s):

Heaven, the new heaven.

0 (17m 12s):

So at the very end, you know, after that doomsday prepper stuff that we were talking about when Jesus returns, or if we die before Jesus returns, we are resurrected. It says, and God is going to create a new heavens and a new earth. So, so this new heaven is actually our ultimate health home, where we're spending

1 (17m 31s):

For eternity earth that you died.

0 (17m 35s):

If you die, before Jesus comes back, you go to that intermediate heaven. And then at the very end, we'll have resurrected bodies on the new heavens and the new earth. Now that second arrow, that's where all the Christians debate and argue about what actually happens during that time period. What is it going to be like? Is there going to be a where Jesus is going to rain on earth? We're not going to talk about any of that today. We're talking about at that very end new heaven, okay. This is our ultimate hope where we're ultimately hoping to be. Whatever happens in that arrow.

1 (18m 1s):

The ultimate

0 (18m 1s):

Hope is the new heavens and the new earth. So when Isaiah is this prophet and he's this mouthpiece for God is God is saying, Hey, I'm going to make a new heaven. I'm going to make a new earth. That's what he's talking about. So when I talk about heaven today, that's what I'm referring to. Okay? The ultimate heaven, our ultimate hope

1 (18m 20s):

That we'll be with forever. And

0 (18m 22s):

So this is what I want to see next that the new earth is the new heaven they're combined. And we actually see this in revelation chapter 21, the second to last chapter in the entire Bible, John, one of the disciples of Jesus has his own vision of heaven. And in revelation, chapter 21,

1 (18m 38s):

Starting in verse three, I don't, you've got to learn where everything is now. Revelation

0 (18m 44s):

21. John has this vision. He says, then I saw a new heaven and a new earth

1 (18m 48s):

Quotes there. He's quoting Isaiah chapter 65. And he has this vision, one

0 (18m 53s):

Of the new heaven and the new earth for the first heaven. And the first earth had passed away.

1 (18m 59s):

Here's as we know, it will, will be destroyed, but they will in its place will be a new heaven and a new earth. But then this is

0 (19m 6s):

The good part. It says, I saw the Holy city, then the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven

1 (19m 10s):

From God prepared as a bride, beautifully dressed for her husband. So

0 (19m 16s):

This image is really important because what happens at a wedding with a bride,

1 (19m 20s):

The husband? Well, we believe the two become one flesh. There was a couple of times

0 (19m 26s):

Baptized a few weeks ago, Justin and Liza. I don't know if you remember them. I officiated their web wedding here last night. It was fun. I kind of planned it in the last week and we did a ceremony. It's awesome because what we celebrate, why we love weddings is the two, two separate people become one flesh. It's one unit, one family. Now

1 (19m 43s):

It's a new thing. So in the same way, having

0 (19m 46s):

This Holy city is coming down to the

1 (19m 48s):

New earth, like a bride prepared for the groom, right?

0 (19m 51s):

And then the two become one. And that's why it says in verse three, next

1 (19m 56s):

We can. And

0 (19m 57s):

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, look, God's dwelling place is now among the people. And he will dwell

1 (20m 3s):

With them. God himself, heaven itself

0 (20m 8s):

Comes down. And the new heavens and new earth are

1 (20m 10s):

One. So what we look forward to is the new earth made new,

0 (20m 14s):

Like it was supposed to be at the very beginning in the garden of Eden. Now it's going to be made new. It's going to be perfect without destruction, without death, without any of the blemishes that are part of our earth right now. And heaven itself, we won't have to wait. It's way up, up there. Floating in clouds. No, no, no heaven is coming down onto the Newark.

1 (20m 32s):

Do you get that? So that's,

0 (20m 33s):

That's why my big idea today is heaven is life. As it was meant to be the new earth is

1 (20m 40s):

Earth. Is there 2.0 it's earth? The way it was meant to be heaven is life as it was meant to be. So now on the same page about this new heaven and new earth that the scriptures actually teach us about what we're going to learn. Three different things about how it is life as it was meant to be. And the first thing is that heaven is happiness, as it was meant to be heaven is happiness as it was meant to be. So let's look at the second half of verse 17 and Isaiah 65, the former things will not be remembered. It says, nor will they come to mind. So this is God talking about the new heaven. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

1 (21m 23s):

Now this is really good news because we all have bad memories. We have things that we have done that we feel guilty and remorseful for. We have terrible things that have happened to us. We carry around shame. Some of us trauma from our past, all those awful evil things from the past won't even come to mind anymore. Now people wonder if this means that we won't be able to remember what earth was like. And I don't think so. I just think heaven is going to be so good. We're going to be so filled with the happiness in heaven that we won't even think about that you guys know this in your happiest moments. You're not reliving the awful things from your past because your mind is filled with the good things of the present.

1 (22m 8s):

So in the same way in heaven, those things, aren't going to come to mind. We're not going to remember them. Not because we can't remember because we've, we all need to. And man, this is good news because there are those things in our past that make us unhappy in the present. Aren't there. The shame we carry around the guilt, we carry around the trauma IAV. That's my daughter. I love you. So that's the first thing that we notice here. So, so that's why it's to be happiness as it was meant to be. But, but it goes on in verse 18. Ooh, I like this person, but be glad and rejoice forever. Do you know what the word rejoice means? Be happy forever in what I will create for, I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people, a joy, the people who are there in heaven, the believers in Jesus Christ, you and I, we put our faith in Jesus.

1 (23m 2s):

We will be joy for each other. And for ourselves even get this verse 19, I God says I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people. God's going to be happy. He says the sound of weeping and crying will be hurting it. No more said last week that there's a lot of things to cry about in this world, right? I want to be nice to not ever have to cry about anything ever again. And that sounds good. No more weeping, no more crying. We won't hear anybody else crying either. There's only going to be happiness, only joy only goodness. And it's going to be happiness as it was meant to be. I see happiness as it was meant to be because in this life we have moments of happiness.

1 (23m 43s):

Don't we great. Happiness is moments that make your heart sing and leap

0 (23m 49s):

Good. We even say things like that, or it's like a taste of heaven or, or a slice of heaven. You know, we say things like this because that's what it is.

1 (23m 58s):

The best happiness we have in this life is just a little foretaste of what is to come. But it's a tiny little foretaste, just a little bit, because what happens in this birth right now, we have that moment and it's gone a moment

0 (24m 15s):

Later. You're thinking about even the moment,

1 (24m 18s):

Right? And then it's gone and we try to,

0 (24m 21s):

We create that moment. We try to stay in that moment as long as we can. That's why we go to concerts. That's why we go on trips. That's why people spend millions and billions of dollars building houses and building Disney world the happiest place on earth, because we want to find that happiness. Even if it's just for a moment, we spend tons of money on food and we, we get people together and it's all these. So we can get those glimpses of happiness now. Right?

1 (24m 47s):

And I'm not

0 (24m 47s):

Saying any of that is bad, although you shouldn't waste all your money, chasing those fleeting things that oftentimes the best ones are free, right?

1 (24m 55s):

But those moments are just in a moose, Boosh of heaven. You guys ever had an amuse-bouche to family.

0 (25m 5s):

The word for the appetizer before the appetizer, you have to go to a really fancy restaurant. You're going to lose Boosh, right?

1 (25m 11s):

It's like these tiny

0 (25m 12s):

Little bites. Sometimes even the chef will have a one bite. They'll try to get this perfect one bite. And that's all you'll get. As you're waiting for your appetizer before your salad, before your soup, before you finally get the first one

1 (25m 24s):

Gray, okay. The grapes,

0 (25m 27s):

Just moments of happiness in this life, or the little moves boost that tiny bite you get before all,

1 (25m 34s):

That's what it is

0 (25m 35s):

Senior, because it's going to be happiness that we can feel and experience and hold on to. And we won't be distracted by the things of this world. You know, with kids now I'm distracted all the time, right? It's hard to stay in the moment. I always say that about parents just stay in the moment like you can't cause there's a million things going around. And I still miss that. My kid puts something in their mouth and they're about to die. Right?

1 (25m 55s):

Okay.

0 (25m 56s):

Because we're distracted by things. We have memories of the past that bog us down. We have heard, there are distractions. There are things that smell bad that distract us from the good things that are happening around us. There's all sorts of things that take us out of those moments of happiness. But when we get to heaven, there will be nothing to distract us,

1 (26m 11s):

That there will only be happiness so that we can fully enjoy those moments again and again and again. And it's the new earth. This means we will

0 (26m 21s):

Eat and feast tells us in Isaiah chapter 25 or six, that it will be a great feast that God will prepare for us a banquet, the best wines in the world.

1 (26m 31s):

That sounds good to me. That's what's gonna be

0 (26m 33s):

Like, it's the best meals. It's also going to be the new earth. So I imagine the places that I will never be able to get to in this life, traveling wine,

1 (26m 41s):

Maybe we'll get to travel and experience all things for eternity. Why not? Why not go

0 (26m 46s):

Swim in those beautiful blue oceans and not have to be like, Oh, I'm going to have to go home in three,

1 (26m 51s):

Right? Isn't that what we do on our vacations, but it hasn't it's forever. And ever those moments of happiness will be unending.

0 (26m 58s):

That's why heaven is happiness

1 (26m 60s):

As it was meant to be. And that sounds good to me. Isn't it? It sounds good to me. CS Lewis is right.

0 (27m 10s):

I think when he says the joy is the serious

1 (27m 12s):

Business of heaven, serious business, God wants us to be happy in this life too. We'll talk about that more in the next couple of weeks, but especially in the life to come, it's all about

0 (27m 26s):

Eternal happiness and God's happy as he's happy when we're happy. Just like as any parents

1 (27m 30s):

Happy when their drivers happy, my father had and will be so glad to see us smile and laugh, but it's not just that heaven is

0 (27m 41s):

Going to be happiness as it was meant to be. The second thing we're going

1 (27m 43s):

To learn today is that heaven is every day as it was meant to be. I mean,

0 (27m 50s):

With this every day is in, it's going to be forever and ever and ever, but also in that it's everyday life

1 (27m 57s):

That it was

0 (27m 57s):

The way it was meant to be. So I want to show you this first thing in verse 20.

1 (28m 1s):

Now these, this verse is a little weird, but we're talking about it. We talked about the weird versus here.

0 (28m 6s):

Verse 20. It says never again. Will there be in it in heaven, in infant who lives, but a few days or an old man who does not live out his years, the one who dies at a hundred will be thought of your child. The one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered

1 (28m 18s):

A cursed. Now there are some

0 (28m 20s):

Debate about this, cause it sounds like people are dying from this one verse. There's some debate about whether this is talking about, you know, life right now, or life in the millennium. When Jesus comes back to reign on the earth, I am going to give you my opinion here, because he has theologians debate about this verse. But I'm gonna give you my opinion that I think this is talking about the ultimate heaven and it's not actually saying people are gonna die. The reason why I think it's talking about the ultimate heaven is because this verse, as we saw was quoted in revelation 21, where it says in verse four, revelation 21, there will be no more death, same chapter quoting Isaiah 65 or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away. So if it says there's going to be no more death, there's gonna be no more death.

0 (29m 2s):

So why does it say here in verse 20 that there's going to be someone who dies at a hundred? Well, I think as in all prophecy, it's trying to teach us about things. We don't quite know,

1 (29m 11s):

Grasp with things we do understand. We do understand.

0 (29m 15s):

And the thought of someone being a hundred years old and dying as being like that's a long life. That's a long, good life. We say, wow, that person lived for a long time. That's it? What a great life. So if that were to happen in heaven, we think, Oh my gosh, that's it. So it's that, that mindset. That's what it's going to be like in heaven, that that a hundred years is going to seem like nothing

1 (29m 33s):

Compared to the every

0 (29m 34s):

Day that we will live for eternity and turny without death, without our bodies breaking down without having to worry about disease and sickness and cancer. And COVID-19, we don't have to wear masks anymore to worry about passing around a virus.

1 (29m 49s):

That sounds like heaven, doesn't it. And I'm longing for that. Right? Let's get these, let's get through this thing, right? So we're all longing for it, but heaven, we're not going to have to ever worry about sickness or death ever again. It's going to be every day forever.

0 (30m 3s):

It's 20, but, but it's even more than that. Look with me at verses 21 and 22,

1 (30m 8s):

It says they will build houses and dwell in them. They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit no longer will. They,

0 (30m 16s):

They build houses and others live in them or plant and others eat for as the days of a tree. So will be the days of my people. My chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune for. They will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants

1 (30m 35s):

With them. The reason why I'm

0 (30m 38s):

Saying that heaven is every day as it was meant to be because

1 (30m 41s):

People here are building houses, they're planting vineyards, they're tending the vineyards. They're harvesting from the vineyards being the fruit of it. It seems like everyday life as it was meant to be. And I see

0 (30m 53s):

Because it even says that will work in verse 23. They will not labor in vain, but it sounds like we will labor. We will work. A lot of people have this false idea of heaven that it's going to be like Boca. Like it's going to be this retirement community down in Arizona where you're going to be called

1 (31m 10s):

For forever and ever. But actually it seems like

0 (31m 14s):

We'll continue to have work, but it's going to be the type of work that's fruitful without

1 (31m 17s):

Toil. And

0 (31m 19s):

I say this because a lot of us, our hobbies,

1 (31m 22s):

These are really work, right? A lot of us, our hobbies are really work that

0 (31m 30s):

I go on vacation. A lot of times when we go out to Utah, I spend time with Melissa's dad. And we have been building a cabin

1 (31m 36s):

Together on my vacation.

0 (31m 38s):

I work and build a cabin and I love it, right? Because I'm building something it's enjoyable in the mountain air and we're building this cabin. It's, it's so enjoyable. And then we're going to get to stay in

1 (31m 49s):

That cabin. And it's the same thing.

0 (31m 51s):

It's like, you're going to build your house and then live in it. It's going to be awesome. You're going to work your vineyard and eat the fruit. So when we have hobbies, like, like building or hunting or fishing or baking or working in a yard, all these things we work at, right.

1 (32m 6s):

For fun. Why? Because

0 (32m 8s):

It's enjoyable, but it's going to take away all the bad parts of it. The toilet,

1 (32m 13s):

The toilet, the worst

0 (32m 14s):

Things that, that our hands like break down and we have pain in our hands. And then we get arthritis and our back is hurting. Cause we've been lifting stuff for so long. All

1 (32m 22s):

That's going to be gone. We're going

0 (32m 24s):

To get, be able to enjoy it. We're going to be able to focus on the things we're doing without distraction or worried about I'm spending too much time doing this, this fun thing.

1 (32m 31s):

Okay. No, no, no. You're going to be in that river fishing for eternity, like awesome. I get to meet you

0 (32m 36s):

This. And I get to try a different place to, to catch trout again. And whatever the, these hobbies that you have baking cakes or, or decorating or fashion, I don't know all these things they're work, but they're going to be so enjoyable as we make things, get to enjoy them and then get to give them to other people too. I think that's going to happen as we enjoy all this work of

1 (32m 53s):

Our hand together, you know, what's

0 (32m 56s):

Really interesting is, is if heaven is life, as it was meant to be, it's really looking even backwards to the garden of Eden. Did you know when God created the perfect garden of Eden, he put Adam and Eve in it and it says that he took Adam and he put him in the garden to work it and tend it in the perfect garden of Eden. Adam was,

1 (33m 14s):

But it was great work. He loved it. He got the name of the animals.

0 (33m 17s):

It wasn't until there was sin entering in the world. And the curse for sin in Genesis chapter three was that the ground was cursed and there would be thorns and thistles. And there would be sweat on the brow as we worked because all our work it's so frustrating, doesn't it? And it's frustrating when we work for something and then we don't get to enjoy it too. That's what it says. Isaiah was prophesying at a time where God's people had built houses, planted vineyards, worked the land, they loved it. And then the enemy came in, capture those people, kidnap them and sent them into exile. That's when Isaiah is speaking here, he's like, remember those houses you built that you don't even get to live in. Now, a foreigner has taken over your house and lived in. That's never going to happen again. You're going to build it and you're going to live in it and celebrate it every day is going to be great.

0 (34m 1s):

So like for us in our work, we do something great. And then your boss takes credit for it. Right? You make a lot of money. And then the IRS takes a third of it.

1 (34m 12s):

Right? We

0 (34m 13s):

Build things and we don't get to fully enjoy them. Even if we have a great thing that we accomplish. Okay, Monday again, we've got to get back to it, right? Isn't that what we do

1 (34m 21s):

With our work, but not in heaven. It's going to be

0 (34m 25s):

Everyday, as it was meant to be, it's going to be work as it was meant to be enjoyable. As we work with our hands, doing the things we want to do, not that someone's forcing us to do, or we have to just put bread on the table. It's gonna be the work week

1 (34m 35s):

I want to accomplish and it's going to be great.

0 (34m 39s):

So that's why I say as my second point today is that heaven is everyday as it

1 (34m 44s):

Was meant to be the best days

0 (34m 47s):

That the good days the accomplishment purposeful.

1 (34m 50s):

So it was meant to be, there's a third thing. Heaven is relationships, as they were meant to be, it's going to be the relationships as they were

0 (35m 2s):

To be back at the end of verse 23, you might have noticed this says they will not bear children doomed to misfortune. One of the hardest things about being a parent is watching your kids suffer.

1 (35m 12s):

We're dying. It's never going to happen. Again. The people we love are only going to have happiness.

0 (35m 20s):

And it says they will be a blessed people by the Lord of the universe, 23 for they and their descendants with them. It sounds like generation after generation, after generation, we'll all be together. It'd be like the best family reunion without any sibling rivalries or drunk uncles. Okay. This is going to be so great to see family and to see the generations that have come before. I'm excited to talk to some of my ancient ancestors that I would never have a chance

1 (35m 45s):

Meet my, my grandpa just a couple of years ago, I'm going to talk with him about him in just a minute again. But I,

0 (35m 52s):

With him two summers ago and he had this magazine article, you opened it up. It was the very first female preacher in our country. He said, this is one of your,

1 (35m 60s):

Your ancestors. I was like, well, what? That's pretty cool. Right? I'll get to meet her. And

0 (36m 6s):

You're like, wait, Hey, this is cool. We're somehow distantly related back 15 generations or something. Right. It's gonna be so cool to do it. And the one still

1 (36m 13s):

To come that we're going to

0 (36m 15s):

Spend time with our kids and grandkids and great grandkids and their kids. And it's all going to be together. And there's going to be the relationships with our family. Like they were meant to be,

1 (36m 24s):

It says in verse 24, this is even greater. This relationship God says before they call, I will answer while they are still speaking. I will hear in this

0 (36m 36s):

Life, even if we have a relationship with God,

1 (36m 40s):

We have to pray. And we're like, did you hear that? Should I say it a little more?

0 (36m 44s):

Do I need to add some of these and thus, make sure it gets through like, am I, am I doing this right? Close eyes, open eyes, Neal. What do I need to do? Right. But we're going to be with God face to face in a relationship.

1 (36m 56s):

And we can just talk with him.

0 (36m 57s):

Even when we ask things, we don't have to wait for an answer. It'll be okay.

1 (36m 60s):

I, that I'm looking forward to asking God some questions too. Like, why did that happen? Why are there mosquitoes? Like, what's up with that? God, I don't get it right.

0 (37m 10s):

We're going to have all these questions and we can just ask God. And he will be there to listen to us. And

like the father who loves

1 (37m 15s):

To talk with us, our relationship with

0 (37m 18s):

God will be, as it was meant to be. And then in verse

1 (37m 20s):

25, the Wolf and the lamb will feed together. And the lion

0 (37m 26s):

And we'll eat straw. Like the ox and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all,

1 (37m 32s):

All my Holy mountain, the Wolf and the lamb. Now people wonder, is it saying there's going to be animals in heaven? I think so. I'm going to talk about it in my mid week moment here coming up. But

0 (37m 43s):

I think these animals are symbolic because the Wolf

1 (37m 47s):

Is the animal. We fear that eats our livestock.

0 (37m 50s):

It comes in and eats the lamb. It's it's a predator. It's violent. It kills lands. Even though it doesn't need to eat. Right? But here now the Wolf and the lamb are friends. They're buddies, they're hanging out. The lion is eating straw. Like the ox. It doesn't need to be a carnal war because somehow they are peaceful

1 (38m 8s):

Together. I think this is symbolic

0 (38m 10s):

Of the whole world being restored in relationships, animals to animals. And I think it extends beyond that animals, to people, people, to animals, people, to people there's gonna be no more violence even says that they will neither harm nor destroy in

1 (38m 21s):

All my Holy mountain, man.

0 (38m 23s):

Don't you look forward to a world without conflict, without violence, without shooting.

1 (38m 28s):

Yes. That's what it's going to be like. And it says industrial

0 (38m 34s):

B the serpent's food, the serpent was in the garden. Satan

1 (38m 36s):

Who tempted Adam and Eve. He is now bitten the dust. That's what it says. He's gone. In fact in revelation tells us that Satan himself has been thrown into the Lake of fire to never tempt anyone ever again. And babies, no temptation, no sin. We won't have to worry about the accuser who gets into our mind and manipulates us. All our relationships will be restored. It will be pieced that the descriptors call it Shalom the peace, the world, as it was meant to be. It's going to be all of these relationships because they were meant to be. And I long for that day, I long for relationships to be like that. We don't have to worry about conflict and hate and violence and all that man, heaven is life as it was meant to be.

1 (39m 25s):

And this is, this is such an earthly vision of heaven. Isn't it? Because it's the new heaven and the new earth combined. It's not just floating around on these clouds out there wearing this white clothes and diapers and playing a harp. I don't want to play the harp. I want to play drums in heaven. I'm a drummer. Heaven is life, as it was meant to be. I want to learn how to play the cello too. When I get to heaven, I think it's the most, one of the most beautiful instrument. I I'm looking forward to this, right? We'll have enough time to figure it out it's life, as it was meant to be Randy Alcorn. And in the book I referenced earlier, he says this, if we can pull up this, this quote from any Daniel and he says, and for us, now, if we can jump back a little bit, I think I have another quote from Randy, Oklahoma.

1 (40m 12s):

No, we'll keep going. I'm going to paraphrase it. Randy Alcorn basically says, the way we look about learn about heaven is by looking at the world around us. When we see things that are really bad and awful, we'll know that heaven will fix those things. Those scars, those wounds, that the evil things that we're feeling. It's not going to be like that. We can just take this off. So all the bad stuff will point us to how good having will be will long for how great heaven will be. And the good things there'll be. Those tastes the moves, Boosh of what heaven's going to be like, Oh, I can't wait until I can really experience that full feast. That's what heaven is going to be like. And that's something I long for John Calvin, even once said that nobody has made very much progress in their faith.

1 (40m 56s):

If they don't think about heaven more, we need to think about heaven more. We need to savor it. We need to long forward and imagine how great it will be from these images like this, this chapter we just saw in Isaiah say, wow, I can't wait. I want us to think about what it's going to be like, because it's so much greater. And it helps us in this life do just a couple of weeks ago, we found out that my grandpa has a really aggressive form of cancer and we still don't know what's what's going to happen with him. He has an oncology appointment this Wednesday. We don't know if he's going to do treatment or, or if there's treatment for this. So I don't know, but I know that it's aggressive and it's, it's bad. And I look at my grandpa.

1 (41m 38s):

I mentioned him a little bit earlier. You can pray for him. His name's Ray, my middle name. And we call him Pepe. Cause he's French Canadian. That's where my family comes from up in Quebec. So yes, I'm a little bit Canadian. We all need a little more Canadian and us, I think. Right. But, but my, my Pepe, like I love him. He's had a long, great life. I think he's almost 88. And he, you know, served in the army. He had a great career. He retired early. They had a retirement home in Arizona where they played a lot of golf. He has had four kids, three are still living. He, I tried my best to count accountant. I think there's 13 grandkids in 18 great grandkids.

1 (42m 18s):

I mean, that's a long, full, amazing life. And I called him on Friday. I went out for a walk and I just was like, I want to just talk with him. I haven't seen him here in a little while and his voice was weak, right? I mean already he's,

2 (42m 33s):

He's feeling his voice was weak. He could barely

1 (42m 35s):

Hang in there. I think he was in some pain. So it was a very short

2 (42m 37s):

Conversation. And that's not like, as it was meant to me, her bodies are not supposed to break down and we're not supposed to be separated from the people. That's not life as it was meant to be. So when we talk about heaven today, this is not just theoretical. This is not just the theology that will fill our heads with this is more real than this life. And we need it because I want my pet day with median heaven for turn. And I want you in have an attorney with me as well. This is why we do what we do. And I plead with you because I want you to be there. I want you to experience the fullness of happiness and I don't want any stupid ideas about what you think heaven is to stop you from realizing how great it granted will be forever and ever.

2 (43m 23s):

I want you there. I want you. If you're listening to my voice right now online, I want you there. And I want you to experience the happiness. That will be the fullness of all happiness for eternity. And I want there to be no more sickness, sorrow, pain, or death that we don't have to worry about cancer or COVID-19 or Parkinson's or anything like that. Ever again. I want to celebrate, I want to be dancing and I want to see you there. So that's why we talk about here because we want to help you follow Jesus because it's, when you decide to follow Jesus, to make him your Lord and savior, that you can be guaranteed. That you'll be heaven because Jesus wants you there so much that he left it all. Did you know he was in heaven. He created the earth and then he came down.

2 (44m 3s):

He left it where angels were worshiping and with aim, where he had the fullness of relationship. You left all that to come down and deserve to experience the brokenness, the hardship, and when he was beaten and hit and bloody. When, when he was hung up on the cross and when he had to breathe, his laughter, he had experienced all that breakdown of his body because he loved us and he lives the only way to bring us to where he is to reconcile us and restore us in relationship to himself. He knew that when he died the cross, it was the final atonement that would pay for all of our sins so that we could enter heaven, that he is, as he said, the way, the truth and the life, and the only way to the father and Jesus cared about us so much that he was willing to die on the cross for you.

2 (44m 48s):

And he said, before he died, he said, I'm going there to my father's house because he knew what it was like. He says, there are many rooms that I have prepared for you and I'm going there, but I will come back. He says, I will come back personally to bring you to be where I am in the father's house in heaven is life as it was meant to be. So I'm saying this, because if you are not a believer today, you will not be in heaven. There's no other way around. There is no way to heaven except through Jesus. He is the way the truth and the life has been seen. So I want you to put your faith in Jesus Christ. Just say to, maybe I'll put my faith in him.

2 (45m 29s):

Even if you just have a little bit of pain, that's enough to say, I'm going to trust you. Jesus. You take care of the rest and that's enough. So I want to give you a chance right now to say a prayer right now, to accept Jesus, the gift of his forgiveness and his atonement on the cross and that he will be your Lord and savior today. You'll follow him, not just in this life, but into the one to come. So if I could have everybody just close your eyes for a second, what we do here is if you're already a believer, I want you to say this prayer out loud. Maybe give courage to someone who needs to say this prayer for the very first time. And if you're ready to make Jesus, your Lord and savior, you want to be in that heaven forever and ever. I want you to say this prayer, repeat it after me, dear God.

2 (46m 10s):

Thank you for loving me. I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Forgive me, save me. I believe that Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your Holy spirit. Help me to follow you and serve you until I reach heaven. Now, if you're here and you said that prayer for the first time, and you meant it, if you are now a follower of Jesus Christ, would you just slip your hand into the air? Everybody's eyes are closed. Just slip your hand in VR. I want to encourage you for, if you just slip that into the air. And if you're online watching, go to rice and com slash connect to hit that button started following Jesus.

2 (46m 53s):

I have a special gift that I want to send to you. And just to encourage you in the most important decision you've ever made, because now you'll be in heaven. In fact, the angels it says are recharged right now, angels choicing in heaven, over one sinner who is now. So I want to do one other thing I want, if you want to think, could I have everybody just stand up for a second? Whenever you're ready, stand up. And I want you to close your eyes. I want you to close your eyes. And if heaven is life, as it was meant to be, I want to think back to the greatest moments of our life.

2 (47m 33s):

Just, just maybe think of one of them maybe was when you got married, maybe it was first date. Maybe he was hanging out with friends. Maybe it was when your child was born. Maybe it was a great meal or a great trip. I want you to think of that moment. Maybe you were fishing. You're on top of a mountain. That great moment that you're like, wow, this is incredible. Hold that moment in your mind, taste it, savor it. That's just an, a movement. That's just a forties of what heaven is going to be like. And as we're thinking about those great moments, know that heaven is going to be like that forever and ever without any won't even be a memory one.

2 (48m 13s):

It can be a great moment. It will be great eternity life, as it was meant to be Lord God, we long for heaven. We long for the day, when all will be restored, as it was meant to be. As, as you created it in the garden of Eden, where there is perfection, where there's the Wolf and the lamb together that we can be there in peace with our family. And more importantly with you for eternity, experiencing the true joy in you, experiencing joy as well with us, Lord God, we long for that. We want that help our eyes and our mind be fixed on that. So that all the hard things we go through in this life will just point us even more to you that we long for that day.

2 (48m 54s):

Amen. Now, right now we're going to sing a song. I think a lot of, you know, we're going to sing a verse and I want you to think about it again because we're seeing when we've been there 10,000 years, 10,000 years, what it's going to be like, let's sing the song and worship, and then we are going to participate in the union again.