

# OUR ULTIMATE GOAL!

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Closer to God (63) - Conclusion

With this lesson, we bring our 2022-2023 theme, CLOSER TO GOD, to its conclusion. In this study we have noted:

- Who God is and our need to know Him
- Sin - that which separates us from God
- The grace of God
- Holiness - both God's and ours
- The spiritual man
- Fellowship - including compromise & dangers
- Discipleship
- Some challenges and dangers to our pursuit
- Today...

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Closer to God (63) - Conclusion

# The Ultimate Goal

WHY do we make drawing closer to God a priority?

Why is this pursuit at the foundation of EVERYTHING we do?

Why do we sacrifice and possibly even suffer?

**Because we want to go to heaven!**

# The Bible and Heaven

- The word normally translated “heaven” is found 282x in NT.
- Used in 3 senses
  - The atmosphere - **James 5:18, Matthew 13:32 – birds (cf. Genesis 1:20)**
  - Celestial heavens (space) - **1 Corinthians 15:40, cf. Psalm 19:1**
  - The eternal spiritual realm where God is and where we hope to spend eternity - **cf. Matthew 7:21**
- Consider **2 Corinthians 12:1-2**



# The Bible and Heaven

## What will heaven be like?

- In our broken world we need occasional reminders of a better place that we anticipate
- It is a real place - **John 14:1-3, Hebrews 11:10, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:1**
- Described as Paradise - **Luke 23:43, 2 Corinthians 12:4, Revelation 2:7**

# The Bible and Heaven

## What will heaven be like?

- A place of eternal rest - **Revelation 14:13, Hebrews 4:9-10, cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:7**
- A perfect environment - **Revelation 21:4, 27; 22:3, etc. Cf. Galatians 5:21**
- No persecutions or temptations - **2 Peter 3:13 (cf. Revelation 20:10)**

# The Bible and Heaven

## We will spend eternity with God

- To me, WHO will be in heaven is its most appealing attribute
- The godly of all ages - **Revelation 14:13**
- The Godhead are there -  
**Matthew 6:9, cf. 5:16**  
**Luke 24:51, Ephesians 1:20**
- Can you think of when we will be closer to God? **Psalm 23:6, 1 Thessalonians 4:17**



# Is the journey worth it?

- It is no secret that the journey to heaven is challenging. Getting to heaven, while simple to understand, is NOT easy!

**Matthew 7:13-14, cf. Acts 14:22**

- Is it worth it? Why not just live however you want now? Why struggle & sacrifice through life?

# Is the journey worth it?

- We endure because :
- If you do not make it to heaven, consider the alternative - **Matthew 25:46,**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:9,**  
**Revelation 20:15, 21:8**  
**Matthew 7:13** - the reward of the majority

# Is the journey worth it?

- We endure because :
- The life of a Christian, while difficult at times, is one of integrity and honor. You live knowing you honored God and care about others and yourself
- Heaven is a reward that cannot be FULLY understood with our finite minds. We look at what the Bible says about it and that ought to spark genuine desire within us

# Is the journey worth it?

- We endure because :
- Finally, consider the following:  
**Romans 8:18** - the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared...
- **2 Corinthians 4:16-17** - our light affliction
- **1 John 3:2-3** - we will be like Jesus
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18** - comfort each other with these words

We will not have been in heaven 5 minutes before we will declare, “It was worth it all”.

“If you miss heaven, you have missed all there is!”

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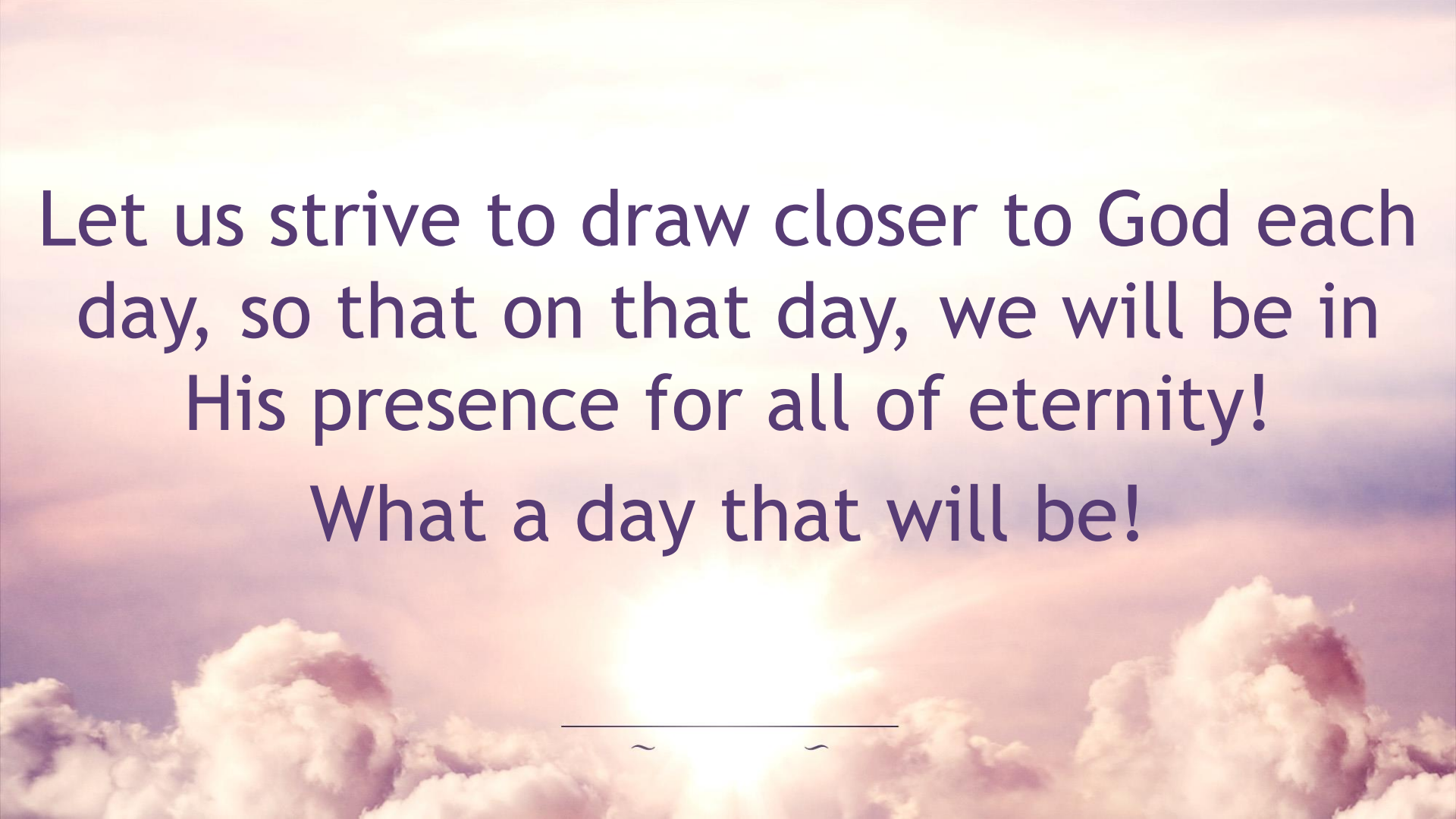


If you were to be asked, what is your  
real purpose on this earth, HOW would  
you answer?

The reality we are here to prepare for  
our eternity.

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Let us strive to draw closer to God each day, so that on that day, we will be in His presence for all of eternity!  
What a day that will be!

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Let us pray!

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