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HEAVEN

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How much do you think about Heaven?

What are you waiting for?

Think of a time when you were eagerly waiting for something good — a long-awaited trip, a major accomplishment, a new season of life. Something you “just couldn’t wait for.”

- What made it so exciting?
- How did that anticipation affect your attitude or choices?
- If it took a long time to arrive, what helped you stay hopeful?



Wrong Ideas About Heaven

A pastor once confessed to me, “Whenever I think about Heaven, it makes me depressed. I’d rather just cease to exist when I die.”

“Why?” I asked.

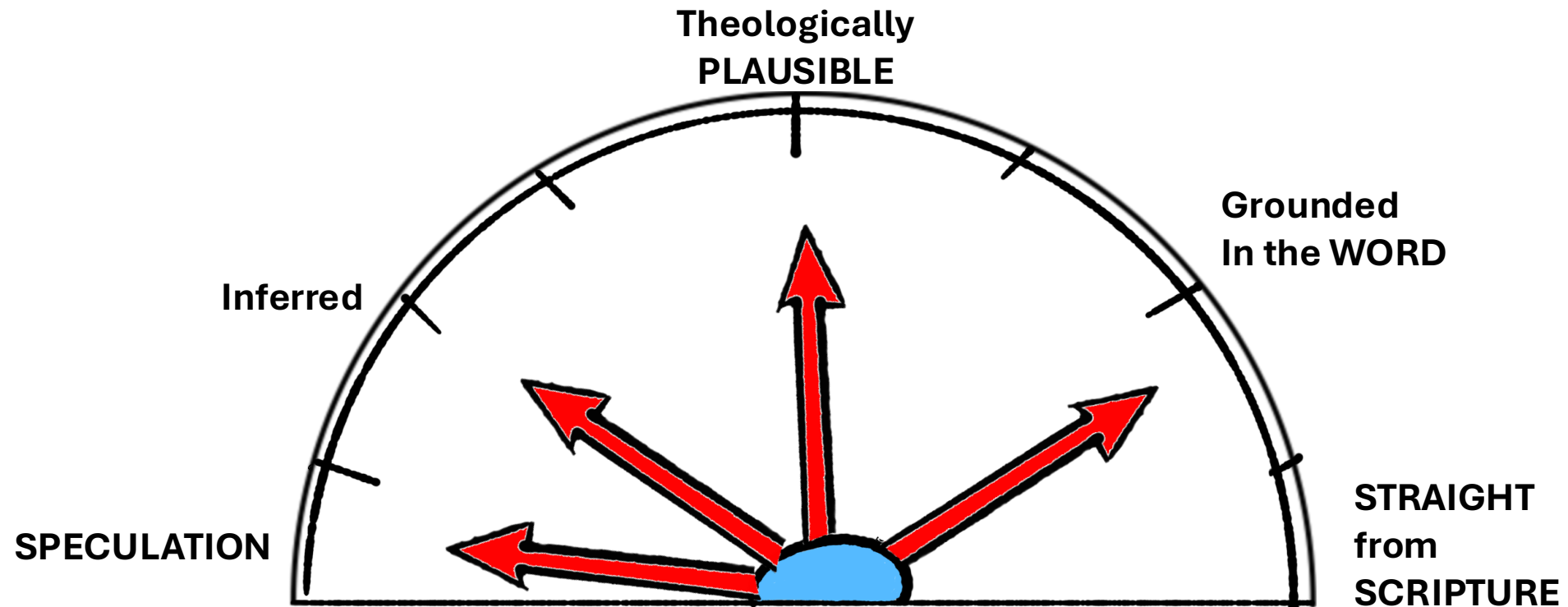
“I can’t stand the thought of that endless tedium. To float around in the clouds with nothing to do but strum a harp . . . it’s all so terribly boring. Heaven doesn’t sound much better than Hell. I’d rather be annihilated than spend eternity in a place like that.”—Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*



Hollywood Heaven...



Heavenly “Hunch” or Dead-on Doctrine?





Why do you think it's important to have an accurate idea about Heaven?

In what ways does having a wrong idea about Heaven sabotage your Christian life here on this current Earth?

What's to come...



Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.
—1 Thessalonians 4:13



PRESENT
(INTERMEDIATE)
HEAVEN

ULTIMATE
(ETERNAL)
HEAVEN

God never gave up on his original plan for human beings to dwell on Earth. In fact, the climax of history will be the creation of new heavens and a New Earth—a resurrected universe inhabited by resurrected people living with the resurrected Jesus.



Biblical Definitions of Heaven

Aspect	Definition & References
First Heaven	The sky/atmosphere (where birds fly) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis 1:8• Deuteronomy 28:12
Second Heaven	Outer space (sun, moon, stars) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis 1:14-18• Psalms 19:1
Third Heaven	The spiritual realm, God's direct presence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Corinthians 12:2-4• Revelation 4:1-2
Eternal Dwelling of the Redeemed	Where believers go to be with God after death <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John 14:2-3• Revelation 21:1-4
Heaven as God's Throne	The place from which God reigns <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Isaiah 66:1• Psalms 11:4

Theological Definitions of Heaven

Category	Content
Biblical References	Genesis 1:1, Deut. 28:12, 2 Cor. 12:2-4, John 14:2-3, Revelation 21:1-4
Bible Dictionary	Heaven is the dwelling place of God, angels, and the redeemed. It can mean sky, space, or the spiritual realm (Easton, Vine, Holman).
Theological Commentary	Augustine: Heaven is the state of blessedness. Calvin: A place and state of eternal communion with God. Grudem: Heaven is both present and future. Alcorn: Includes the New Earth.
Key Theological Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heaven is both present and future• It is relational (presence of God)• It includes a renewed creation• It is a place of worship, rest, and reward

**Can you know you're
going to Heaven?**



**Ruthana Metzger,
Professional Singer**

Discuss:

- How do you get to Heaven?
- “The focus is not on a place but on a person.”

Explain that in terms of the gospel message.

**I hope this class changes
your life!**

**In what ways are
daydreaming about winning
1.8 billion dollars in the
Lottery similar to thinking
about Heaven?**

Compare and contrast...



