

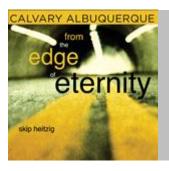
From the Edge of Eternity

Skip Heitzig

What happens when a believer dies? What will heaven be like? What about infants and children who die? When do our bodies get resurrected? What will they be like? These questions and more occupy our thoughts from time to time. In this new series, From the Edge of Eternity, we will follow a believer from death into the different stages of eternity: the Intermediate State, the resurrection of the body, the Kingdom Age and the Eternal State. Since forever is a long time, it only makes sense that we both understand and prepare for this "ultimate journey".

Table of Contents

#	SCRIPTURE:	MESSAGE:
I	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	The Ultimate Journey
2	I Thessalonians 4:13-18	View From Death's Door - Part I
3	I Thessalonians 4:13-18	View from Death's Door - Part 2
4	2 Corinthians 5:1-8	Groaning for Glory
5	I Corinthians 15:3-4;15:20- 28	Rise and Shine!
6	I Corinthians 15:35-50	Getting the Body You've Always Wanted
7	Matthew 19:13-15	Jesus, Friend of Children
8	Revelation 4:1-3	A Sneak-Peek Into What's Up There
9	Revelation 4-5	What on Earth is Going On in Heaven?
10	2 Corinthians 5:9-11	Gold, Silver, or Bronze?
П	Revelation 20:1-3	Heaven on Earth, Part I
12	Revelation 20:1-3	Heaven on Earth Part 2: The Bad Guy is Bound
13	Revelation 20:4-6	Heaven on Earth Part 3: When Politics are Perfect
14	Revelation 21:1-8	Six Things That Will Surprise You About Heaven
15	Revelation 21:9-21	Future-Town
16	Revelation 21:22-22:5	Future-Town Part 2
17	Philippians 1:19-26	Living Between Two Worlds



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	The Ultimate Journey
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/577

What happens when a believer dies? What will heaven be like? What about infants and children who die? When do our bodies get resurrected? What will they be like? These questions and more occupy our thoughts from time to time. In this series, From the Edge of Eternity, we will follow a believer from death into the different stages of eternity: the Intermediate State, the resurrection of the body, the Kingdom Age and the Eternal State. Since forever is a long time, it only makes sense that we both understand and prepare for this "ultimate journey."

OUTLINE

I. We Face Our Mortality (Vss 1-9)

A. Bound by Time

B. Bored by the Temporal

II. We're Made For Eternity (Vss 10-11)

A. Unique to Humans

B. Implanted by God

III. We Long For Certainty (Vs 9, 21-22)

A. We Should Ask Questions

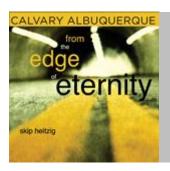
B. We Can Have Answers

Navigational Questions for the Journey:

- I. How much time do you spend thinking about heaven on a daily or weekly basis? How prepared are you for this eternal trip?
- 2. How do you think an eternal perspective could help you with your temporary and practical daily activities?

Topic: Eternity

Keywords: Death, heaven, mortality, resurrected, resurrection, Eternity, Intermediate State, Kingdom Age, Eternal State, ultimate journey



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	View From Death's Door - Part I
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Thessalonians 4:13-18
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/579

Nathaniel Hawthorne once wrote, "A grave, wherever found, reaches a short and pithy sermon to the soul." He's right! Cemeteries remind us of our future on this earth--the only real estate we'll hold onto for awhile! But what happens to a believer after death? What about those who have died already? What are they doing now? Today and next week we will look at the experience of the death of the believer and what takes place afterwards.

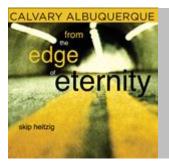
OUTLINE

- I. The Ignorance of Death (Vs. 13)
- A. It is Widespread
- **B. It Concerns Loved Ones**
- C. It Produces Hopelessness
- II. The Assurance at Death (Vss. 14-17)
- A. Based on Redemption
- B. Marked by Relation
- C. Leads to Resurrection
- D. Ends in Reunion

Some "Grave" Questions:

- I. Why does the Bible call death the "last enemy"? (I Corinthians 15:26). Why is it an enemy?
- 2. Why do you suppose people are afraid to talk about death? What feelings arise in you when the discussion comes up?

3. In your own words	, what's the difference	ce between good, h	nealthy grief and unl	nealthy grief?



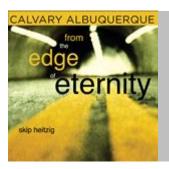
SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	View from Death's Door - Part 2
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Thessalonians 4:13-18
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/581

How can mortal man penetrate beyond the grave and find assurance and peace for his own heart? Philosophers won't help--they've been for centuries discussing life and death without any resolve. Scientists don't want to tread into the area of wrestling with such questions. Paul solved the problem when he wrote, "For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord." We don't need to wonder or speculate. Why substitute human speculation when we have divine revelation?

OUTLINE

- I. The Ignorance of Death (Vs 13)
- A. It is Widespread
- **B. It Concerns Loved Ones**
- C. It Produces Hopelessness
- II. The Assurance at Death (Vss 14-17)
- A. Based on Redemption (vs 14a)
- I. Because Jesus Died and Rose
- 2. Because We Participate by Faith
- B. Marked by Relation (vs 14b)
- I. We are "in Jesus"
- 2. We'll be "with Him"
- C. Leads to Resurrection (vss 15-16)

- I. For Those Who Have Died
- 2. For Those Who're Still Alive
- D. Ends in Reunion (vss 17-18)
- I. We'll be Together Again
- 2. We'll be Together Always



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Groaning for Glory
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Corinthians 5:1-8
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/583

What sort of existence and experiences are departed believers enjoying right now? Is the heaven we go to when we die our final destination? Paul described it as "far better" (Phil. 1:23) but it's going to get even much better! Paul lightly touches on what happens when a Christian dies and awaits the resurrection, but it's enough to give us confidence. Let's consider today the "intermediate" or temporary transitional heaven before the resurrection of our bodies.

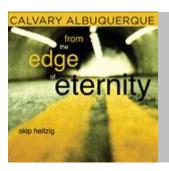
OUTLINE

- I. Our Destination--What We Know (Vs I)
- A. We Move From Earthly to Heavenly
- **B.** We Move From Tent to Temple
- II. Our Frustration--Why We Groan (Vss 2-5)
- A. Because of What We're Getting (Vss 2-4)
- B. Because of What We Have (Vs 5)
- III. Our Affirmation--When We're Confident (Vss 6-8)
- A. We're Always Confident Here
- B. We'll Ever be Confident There

Consider This:

I. Could it be that your concept of a person's "soul" is too limited? What factors have contributed to that? What would change that?

mportant an issue?			



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Rise and Shine!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Corinthians 15:3-4;15:20-28
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/585

My mom used to saunter into my room to wake me up in the morning with a sweet call to, "rise and shine!" One day our Savior will give a call for all His children to do the same! This week and next week we will be considering the resurrection of our bodies. Why is resurrection even necessary? What will our resurrected bodies be like? What capabilities will they possess? Will babies always be babies and the elderly always remain elderly when resurrected? As we begin, know this: the idea of resurrection isn't just a New Testament idea; it began long, long ago!

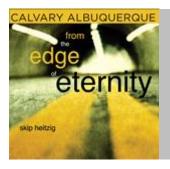
OUTLINE

- I. Resurrection Was Anticipated (Vs 3-4)
- A. The Bible Foresaw Death
- **B.** The Bible Foretold Resurrection
- II. Resurrection Is Already Activated (Vs 20-23)
- A. It Commenced With Christ (Vs 20)
- B. It Continues With Christians (Vss 21-23)
- C. It Culminates With Change (Vs 23, vs 49)
- III. Resurrection Will Be Appropriated (Vss 24-28)
- A. For the Kingdom Age
- B. For the Conquering of Death

Think About This:

I. Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important? How does His resurrection relate to our resurrection?

2. Jesus rose bodily from the grave. It wasn't a different body; it wasn't a new bodyit was HIS body made glorified. What does that tell you about your future resurrected body?
3. How will your resurrected body fit you for the future?



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity	
MESSAGE:	Getting the Body You've Always Wanted	
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig	
SCRIPTURE:	I Corinthians 15:35-50	
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/587	

I know I've gotten your attention with the title! This is one of our culture's driving goals--to look trimmer, healthier, younger and stronger than we are. The solution happens to be in the future with the resurrection of our bodies--it will be the body you've always wanted. Scripture gives some wonderful descriptions of the future strength, beauty and permanence of our resurrected body. Let's consider what the Bible says about how you'll look then.

OUTLINE

I. Questions: How Will it Be? (Vs 35)

A. How Does it Work?

B. What Will the Form Be?

II. Illustrations: Seeds, Species & Stars (Vss 36-41)

A. Lessons from Agriculture

B. Lessons from Zoology

C. Lessons from Astronomy

III. Declarations--Four Contrasts (Vss 42-44)

A. Sown in Corruption/ Raised in Incorruption

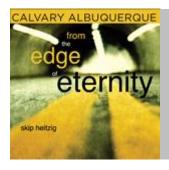
B. Sown in Dishonor/ Raised in Glory

C. Sown in Weakness/ Raised in Power

D. Sown a Natural Body/ Raised a Spiritual Body

Think on These:

- **I.** What does Resurrection mean to you? How does your belief in it affect you now? How would your life and choices be different if you did not?
- **2.** Why do you suppose the human body is so important to people; i.e. why such an emphasis on having a fit physique? Why does God want to resurrect our bodies?



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Jesus, Friend of Children
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Matthew 19:13-15
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/589

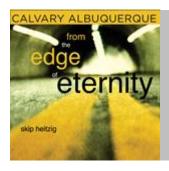
Today's subject is a tender one. The death of infants and children is the greatest fear of any parent. Does the Bible speak clearly about what happens when they die? It certainly does and it also gives great comfort to many who suffer the horrible loss of a little one. In this series on Eternity we must consider this subject since it affects so many and will also help us understand the fate of those who, like children, have diminished capacities.

OUTLINE

- I. Parents' Spiritual Concern (Vs 13)
- A. Desire for Present Safety
- **B.** Desire for Future Salvation
- C. Display of Disciples' Insensitivity
- II. Jesus' Special Care (Vss 14-15)
- A. Reveals God Tender Love
- B. Reveals Child's Special Access

Think on These Things:

- I. Read Matthew 18:1-5 and 10-14. Consider also the analogy in 1 John 3:1-2. All these scriptures form a composite of how God thinks towards little children. What principles emerge for you from these truths?
- **2.** Consider how you might become an agent of healing and God's presence to someone who has suffered the loss of a child. Ask God for special sensitivity and grace for such.



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	A Sneak-Peek Into What's Up There
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 4:1-3
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/593

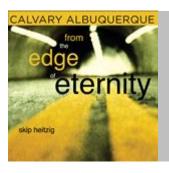
In the early morning of his last day on earth, Dwight L. Moody, awoke suddenly and said, "Earth recedes; heaven opens before me." Those near him thought he was dreaming. "No, this is no dream, it is beautiful. It is like a trance. If this is death, it is sweet. There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go." After that sneak-peek of heaven, Mr. Moody entered his heavenly home. Today lets begin to consider our future home by glimpsing God's heavenly Throne Room.

OUTLINE

- I. Heaven Is a Real Place (Ia)
- A. John's Visual Experience
- **B. John's Auditory Experience**
- II. Heaven Has a Relative Position (1b)
- A. Where the Author Was
- **B.** Where the Author Went
- III. Heaven Highlights a Remarkable Person (2-3)
- A. His Place
- **B.** His Prominence

Answer These Questions:

- I. How often do you think of heaven? Are you bored in the presence of God now or awed? Does this hint at what you picture your experience in heaven will be like?
- **2.** Heaven will display the truth that the world has long forgotten--God is still on the throne. Consider how realizing this truth could radically change your outlook of life on this earth.



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	What on Earth is Going On in Heaven?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 4-5
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/595

The above title is more than just a play on words. Although there will be many activities going on in heaven, worship is one of the few things that we can do "down here" on earth that we will also do "up there" in heaven. That means that one of the ways you can get closer to heaven is to engage in biblical worship right now. Let's tag along with John for his extended tour of heaven.

OUTLINE

I. Heaven's Prominent Occupants: Fellowship

A. Twenty-Four Elders (4:4)

B. Seven Spirits of God (4:5)

C. Four Living Creatures (4:6-8)

D. The Lamb (5:6)

E. Many Angels (5:11)

II. Heaven's Primary Occupation: Worship

A. Proper Response in Worship: Worship is Intellectual

B. Position Assumed in Worship: Worship is Physical

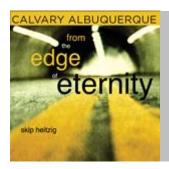
C. Possessions Employed in Worship: Worship is Musical

D. Praise Ascribed in Worship: Worship is Emotional

Apply This Stuff:

I. Think about your public worship experience. Do you worship with all your heart? Here's a thought: choose to worship and not let distractions run away with your thoughts and time.

- **2.** How about private worship? Is it a meaningful experience? Do you find that your private and public worship are the same? Why?
- **3.** Do something creative in your worship. How about writing your own song? You don't have to be a pro -- just one stanza will do. Make it a special gift to God and sing it to Him this week.



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Gold, Silver, or Bronze?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Corinthians 5:9-11
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/599

Next month, the eyes of the world will be on the Olympic Games in Beijing. Athletes from all over the world will compete, hoping to win the gold, silver or bronze medals that rank them as being some of the best on earth. This image of receiving an award from a judge on the raised platform of the Olympic Games is what Paul had in mind when he wrote about the future judgment of believers for their works on earth. Let's see what this means.

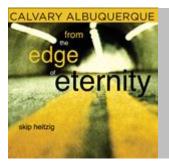
OUTLINE

- I. Our Godward Ambition (Vs 9)
- A. In Life
- B. In Death
- II. Our Heavenward Motivation (Vs 10)
- A. A Place of Revelation
- B. A Place of Reckoning
- C. A Place of Receiving
- III. Our Earthward Occupation (Vs II)
- A. Fear of God
- **B.** Faithfulness toward People

Getting in Shape:

I What motivates you? What is your present understanding of giving an account of your life to God?

2. Memorize Matthew 25:21. How practical is it to live life here while thinking about being evaluated and rewarded later?	



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Heaven on Earth, Part I
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 20:1-3
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/601

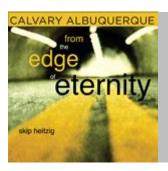
Mankind long ago gave up on the idea of a future Utopia. The idea of perpetual peace and undisturbed harmony became the stuff of fairy tale books. But that is precisely what God promised He will bring to this earth one day. And even though Satan has exercised a temporary authority over God's creation for several millennia, the story isn't over yet. Jesus Christ, who came two millennia ago as Savior, will return to rule as Sovereign for a thousand years. And no, this won't just be a spiritual kingdom in the hearts of His followers. This will be a literal dominion over a renewed earth. Let's explore this 1000 year phase of your eternal future.

OUTLINE

- I. The Extent of It (Vs 2, 3)
- A. The Prophetic Expression
- **B.** The Historic Hope
- II. The Explanation of It (Vs 2)
- A. Premillennial View
- **B.** Postmillennial View
- C. Amillennial View
- III. The Essentiality of It (Vs 3)
- A. To Redeem Creation From Judgment
- B. To Realize God's Promise to Israel
- C. To Reveal Man's Rebellious Nature

Being Heavenly Minded:

- I. After today's study, how much more meaningful is the prayer, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"? (Matthew 6:10)
- **2.** How have your ideas about heaven changed over the past few months? Do you still think heaven will be boring? Why do you think there are so many different phases to it?



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Heaven on Earth Part 2: The Bad Guy is Bound
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 20:1-3
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/603

This world has been so tainted and marred with sin and Satanic deception that it's impossible for us to even imagine what it would be like with Him out of the way. Thankfully we have a clear description of what that will be like during the 1000 year reign of Christ in the Kingdom Age. Today we see the drama of Satan's arrest and incarceration, as the ultimate "bad guy" gets put away to make way for this future era of peace, prosperity and righteousness.

OUTLINE

I. The Pursuer--An angel (Vs I)

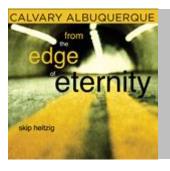
II. The Prisoner--The dragon (Vs 2)

III. The Place--The bottomless pit (Vss 1, 3)

IV. The Purpose--No deception (Vs 3)

Apply This Stuff:

- I. Consider the issue of a "Loving God and a Suffering World". In light of this passage what is God's final solution to the problem of evil & those who promote it? Why would this bring comfort to a child of God?
- 2. Now consider the Sovereignty of God--how has God used evil to accomplish His own purposes (Pain to draw people to Himself etc.) Read Psalm 76:10 and think about it in light of this passage.



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Heaven on Earth Part 3: When Politics are Perfect
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 20:4-6
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/610

It's the political season in our country and both sides are ramping up their platform to get as many votes as possible. The country is sharply divided on the two candidates but one thing is certain according to a recent poll: Americans consider both candidates to be risky if elected president. In Christ's Kingdom on earth, Christ will reign and all those who help Him administer will be in a glorified state, thereby minimizing any risk for shady politics. Get ready--you're going to be part of the future political agenda of the King of Kings.

OUTLINE

I. Eyewitness Chronology

II. Administrative Authority

They Sat

They Judged

They Suffered

They Reigned

III. Social Stability

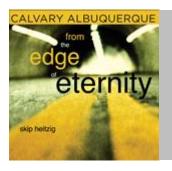
A. Unbelievers Await Second Resurrection

B. Believers Enjoy First Resurrection

IV. Spiritual Invincibility

Never See Eternal Judgment

Ever Serve and Rule



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE.	Six Things That Will Surprise You About Heaven
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 21:1-8
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/612

I began this series talking about all the things I heard people say at funerals about the afterlife, from turning into angels when you die to having to answer Peter's questions at the gates of heaven. I have discovered that most people's (even Christians) ideas about what heaven will be like are vastly different that what Scripture reveals. We turn now to the Eternal State--after our initial experience of the Throne room of heaven, after our bodily resurrection at the Rapture, after the Millennial Reign of Christ. Here's a few things that might surprise you further:

OUTLINE

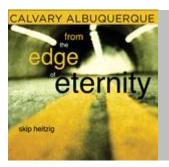
- I. It Will Require Destruction
- II. It Will be a Fresh Design
- III. It Won't Have an Ocean (And You Won't Care)
- IV. It Will Have a Capital City
- V. It Will Feel Unfamiliar
- VI. Not Everyone Will be There

Getting Ready For Heaven:

- I. How often do you think of heaven? Are you bored in the presence of God now or awed? Does this hint at what you picture your experience in heaven will be like?
- 2. Remember as a kid saying, "When I'm grown up, I won't have to go to bed early; I won't have to take

orders,	etc."?	Think	of all	the r	negative	s of	heaven:	you	won't	have to	cry,	mourn,	or s	uffer.	How	could
these	truths	streng	then a	and h	nelp you	to	"overcon	ne"? ((Vs 7)							

3. Go home and look around at everything you own. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35). How are you doing in the battle between the temporary and eternal?



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Future-Town
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 21:9-21
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/614

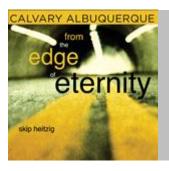
Our English word town is related to the German word zaun (tuin in Dutch). The original idea behind the meaning referred to a space that a fence or wall would enclose. The town of the future described in this chapter, also enclosed by a wall, will be so magnificent that even John's depiction leaves us scratching our heads. This is God's revelation of the future Eternal dwelling of all believers. Let's do a walk-through today.

OUTLINE

- I. The Making of the City (Vss 2, 10)
- II. The Meaning of the City (Vs 9)
- III. The Magnificence of the City (Vss 11-14)
- IV. The Measurement of the City (Vss 15-17)
- V. The Materials of the City (Vss 18-21)

City Planning:

- I. God's plan was to create a community of believers who love and care for each other. Isolation was never a part of that plan. The church was intended to be as close to that ideal as is possible on this side of heaven. What's your involvement like in the lives of other Christians?
- 2. How certain are you that you're walking on the road that leads to heaven? Why should this be your ultimate concern?



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity
MESSAGE:	Future-Town Part 2
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Revelation 21:22-22:5
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/618

Today we will conduct a *walk-through* of your ultimate destination as a believer. We will walk with John as he describes what he saw as he was shown the New Jerusalem. It will be a social environment with such unique features, you'll have to bend and stretch your imagination just a bit. I will sum up this future cityscape by describing five conditions that will exist in God's Town

OUTLINE

I. Proximity (21:22; 22:4)

II. Majesty (21:23)

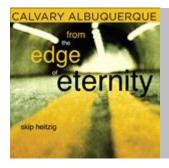
III. Activity (21:24; 22:3, 5)

IV. Diversity (24-27; 22:2)

V. Vitality (22:1-2)

City Planning:

- I. You will one day be engrossed in worshipping God in His very presence. Are you getting ready now? Are you one of the ones Jesus spoke of in John 4 as "those who worship in spirit and in truth"? Are you involved in worship now? Do you sing during church or just sit and look?
- **2. Meditate on This:** "Can you imagine finally looking into the eyes that define compassion and love? Do you anticipate seeing His smile and hearing His voice and His laughter? Can you picture the feet that were washed with oil and tears? Do you look forward to touching the hands that so willingly healed the sick? Can you see yourself running your fingers over the scars of the wounds that should have been your own? You will be touched beyond words, joyful beyond measure, fulfilled beyond expectations. You will be in heaven." (Taken from *History's Last Chapter* by Skip Heitzig, 1998, pg 240)



SERIES:	From the Edge of Eternity			
MESSAGE:	Living Between Two Worlds			
SPEAKER:	p Heitzig			
SCRIPTURE:	Philippians 1:19-26			
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/620			

After studying about the believer's death, resurrection and heaven for four months now, maybe you can relate to these words by Puritan author, Thomas Watson, "Spiritual things satisfy; the more of heaven is in us, the less earth will content us." Knowing what we know now about the believer's future world, how can life be different in this present world?

DETAILED NOTES

I. Wrestling with a Predicament (Vss 19-26)

II. Wanting to "Push Off" (Vs 23)

- It Will Be a Departure
- It Will Be an Encounter
- It Will Be Much Better

III. Willing to Persist (Vs 24)

IV. Waiting with a Passion (Vss 20-22)

A. If Life is the Plan

B. If Death is the Plan

Bringing It Home:

- Using scripture, can you now form a description of heaven? How does it compare to life here? If heaven is our ultimate goal, then why do we spend so long a time on this earth?
- To what extent is your life motivated by making spiritual progress for yourself & others?
- Write your own slogan: Sum up your life in one sentence and be brutally honest! Then ask God to conform your view into His.