FOUNDATIONS, “HEAVEN”

Intro. Tonight’s class is all about heaven!

1. We probably don’t think about heaven enough
   a. We get so involved in living life that we can forget this isn’t all there is
   b. In fact, in light of eternity, this isn’t even that much of what is

James 4:14 (NKJV) whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

James 4:14 (TMSG) You don’t know the first thing about tomorrow. You’re nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing.

   c. The Bible says our life is like “a vapor”, “a wisp of fog” and then it’s over
   d. God isn’t being morbid; He wants us to be realistic in how we assess life

2. I think all of us come to times and places in our lives where we wonder, “Is this as good as it gets”
   a. We look at the way our lives are, some things good, some things bad…
   b. It can make us wonder, “Is this as good as it gets?”
   c. We have a promise of heaven; this life isn’t all there is

Colossians 3:1-4 (NKJV)
1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

I. ETERNITY IS A _________________

   A. THE PROBLEM WE HAVE WITH THINKING ABOUT ETERNITY IS WE’RE LOCKED INTO ____________________________
1. Eternity is a ________________
   a. It’s hard for us to imagine when time will be no more
   b. All our life has been measured in years, months, weeks, days, minutes and seconds
   c. It can be hard for us to grasp the concept of eternity

Matthew 25:46 (NKJV) And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
   • Eternity a long time!

2. More accurately, eternity is ___________________
   a. It’s where God lives; beyond time

Genesis 21:33 (NKJV)
Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

ex. This is one of my favorite names of God; the Everlasting God.
   • The Hebrew name of Everlasting God is El Olam
   • “El” means “God” and “Olam” means, “everlasting, perpetual, evermore, always”
   • Strongs Hebrew Dictionary defines “olam” as “the vanishing point; time out of mind”
   • The idea is that God lives outside of time; He lives in the past, present, and future all at once!

B. ALL OF US ARE GOING TO LIVE FOR ETERNITY IN ONE OF TWO PLACES: ________________

1. The Bible says the ________________ now will determine where we spend our eternity
   a. If we ask Jesus to come in our hearts we will spend our eternity in heaven
   b. If we don’t, we will spend eternity in hell

Matthew 13:41- 42 (NKJV)
41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,
42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
The Bible says that hell is eternal fire, eternal torment, eternal suffering;  
Forever separated from anything good, peaceful, or hopeful  
Forever separated from the presence of God  
As believers, we have the promise of something better; of heaven

Revelation 21:4 (NKJV) "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

II. _______________________ IN HEAVEN

A. HEAVEN IS A _______________________

1. Heaven is a place of _______________

John 14:2 (NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

a. Heaven is a place for you, for us  
b. When we get there we'll feel like we belong

John 14:3 (NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

c. We'll fit right in  
d. Jesus said He would receive us to Himself

1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV) to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

e. We've got a place “reserved” especially for us!

- We don’t just get to go to heaven, we belong there!  
- It’s a ‘personal’ place

Revelation 2:17 (NKJV) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”
• Heaven is so personal that Jesus is going to give us a white stone with a new name on it that only He knows and we know what it is
• We'll fit in- it's a personal place

B. IT’S A PLACE OF _____________________

1. Sometimes all we see is _____________
   a. We need some perspective
   b. That’s what the Bible gives us when it reminds us of heaven

2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:1 (NKJV)
16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.
17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,
18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 
5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

   c. This isn’t as good as it gets
   d. When we’re going through something tough we need to remember, it’s only temporary!

2. Perspective is remembering we have something to _______

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Revelation 21:4 - 5 (NKJV)
4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
5 then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

   a. The former things have passed away!

• “Behold, I make all things new”
• Heaven is a place of perspective
C. HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF ________________________

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV) For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1. This is sometimes our problem, “For now we see in a mirror, ___________
   a. Something inside us cries out to understand more or understand better

   • “For now we see in a mirror, dimly…”
   • It’s hard seeing dimly

   • Heaven is a place of perfect understanding

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NKJV) For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

   • What a promise!
   • When we get to heaven we will come face to face with Jesus
   • As soon as we come face to face with Jesus- we’ll have perfect understanding

2. Four words in 1Cor. 13:13 we need to remember __________
   __________

   • All the questions we’ve had will be answered in a moment of time
   • All our “whys” will be answered

C.S. Lewis, “In heaven there are no questions, only answers.”

PRAYER AND CONFESSION: Thank You Jesus, for the promise of heaven. Thank You, that heaven is a place for me. You’ve made it, so I can fit in. Help me to keep perspective. This is not all there is. Thank You for that and for the understanding that in heaven, all my questions will be answered, in Your name, Jesus, Amen.

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON

I. ETERNITY IS A _(LONG TIME)_
A. THE PROBLEM WE HAVE WITH THINKING ABOUT ETERNITY IS WE’RE LOCKED INTO _(TIME CONSCIOUSNESS)

1. Eternity is a __(long time)!

2. More accurately, eternity is __(beyond time)

B. ALL OF US ARE GOING TO LIVE FOR ETERNITY IN ONE OF TWO PLACES: __(HEAVEN OR HELL)

1. The Bible says the _(decisions we make) now will determine where we spend our eternity

II. __(HOW GOOD IT GETS) IN HEAVEN

A. HEAVEN IS A __(PERSONAL PLACE)

1. Heaven is a place of __(belonging)

B. IT’S A PLACE OF __(PERSPECTIVE)

1. Sometimes all we see is __(this life)

2. Perspective is remembering we have something to __(look forward to)

C. HEAVEN IS A PLACE OF __(PERFECT UNDERSTANDING)

1. This is sometimes our problem, “For now we see in a mirror, ___(dimly)”

2. Four words in 1Cor. 13:13 we need to remember ___(“then I shall know”)