

Randy Alcorn/Part 2 – The New Earth

This is the second interview with best selling author Randy Alcorn. The first one discussed the Present Heaven, where believers in Christ go upon death while awaiting Christ's return to earth. Here Randy discusses the New Earth (Eternal Heaven) which the Lord will establish on planet earth and where He will reign along with those who have died in Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Randy describes the Present Heaven as “Paradise”—the place where Jesus reigns and all believers immediately go upon death—as “better by far” than this world, but not the end of the story. He explains that the Present Heaven will undergo a major change following the Lord's return and the resurrection. He goes on to say that most people simply think of “Heaven as Heaven,” without consideration of this change, but that's not what the Bible teaches.

Question: Has this discussion changed your view of Heaven?

2. In this interview, we discuss what happens in the “post-resurrection” Heaven—The New Earth—to those who are dead but not residing in the Present Heaven now, because they did not put their faith in Christ by the time of their death.

Questions: What is Randy's Biblical position on this? Do you believe the Bible to be the final word on who inherits the New Earth (who's names are written in the Book of Life), and those who don't? Do you take any comfort in there being “degrees of suffering” for those separated from Heaven for eternity?

3. In describing “future attractions” of the New Earth, Randy depicts a place which incorporates the best of what we love and brings us joy on earth—Fellowship with Jesus, times with loved ones, gathering together with old and new friends, eating and drinking, creative and recreational endeavors/adventures, cultural experiences, enjoying God's creation...and everything else good and wonderful we can imagine.

Question: What can you imagine on your “New Earth bucket list?”

4. Randy says that if we can envision the New Earth like this (not a fairytale), it will radically change our view of this life, and what we believe to be our treasures.

Question: Do you believe this to be a paradigm shift you should pursue?

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