



date July 11 & 12, 2026
speaker Jenny Heckman



"What Happens for the Christian After Death?"

John 14:1-4;
1 Corinthians 15:3-5; 12-14; 20-26

A. Allowing Scripture to Define Terms

1. Eternal Life
 - John 17:3
 - Substance rather than destination
2. Heaven
 - Matthew 6:9-10
 - God's space, God's dimension
 - God's space has always intersected with our space (OT/NT)
 - One day our space will be fully absorbed in God's space (Revelation 21:2-5)
 - Heaven is God's space, rather than a place we go after death

B. Where Does the Christian "go" after Death?

1. Life after death: Paradise
 - John 14:1-4
 - Luke 23:43
 - 2 Corinthians 12:2-4
 - Without a body but most fully "ourselves"
2. Life *after*, life after death: Resurrection into a renewed creation
 - 1 Corinthians 15
 - A body that is now imperishable, designed for a renewed creation
3. Non-speculative glimpses
 - Paradise: rest and refreshment in the presence of Christ
 - Resurrection into a renewed creation from C.S. Lewis:
More real and more solid than present life.
Not a replacement of the old; the truest, most real version.
Not an escape from matter, an intensification of it.

C. Living in Hope

1. Words of comfort as we face the "last enemy" (1 Corinthians 15:26)
2. Words of redirection for those who deny the devastation of death (John 11:35)
3. Spurring one another on to be garden-tenders rather than grave-tenders (Philippians 1:23-24)

Resources:

- The Bible Project <http://bibleproject.com/>
- *Heaven* (Randy Alcorn)
- *Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter* (Timothy Keller)
- *Surprised by Hope* (NT Wright)
- *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (NT Wright)
- *When in Romans* (Beverly Roberts Gaventa)

Deep Dive Questions:

1. What has shaped your understanding of the afterlife?
2. What brought hope and clarity from the sermon?
3. What new or lingering questions are within you that you long to get further resolved?
4. How might you live more fully in God's presence today?
5. How is God asking you to be part of His work of renewal in your spheres of influence?