



An Eternal Perspective | Doug Wekenman | 9.12.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is one thing on your bucket list?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Doug continued our new series “Vantage Point” by asking a simple but important question, “what does it look like to live with forever in mind?” As he shared, he brought our vantage point back to what’s ahead for followers of Christ in eternity. But before we dive in, choose one or two people from your group to share their story using the following questions as prompts.

- 1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?**
- 2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.**
- 3. How have you changed in the last five years?**

GROW

Read John 11

This week, Doug referred to the story of Lazarus when talking about having less fear and more excitement for eternity! You see, Lazarus had the very real vantage point of heaven when he was lifeless on earth for four days. We would like to think that he had no fear of death and could relate to what Paul says in Philippians 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Because Lazarus already had eternity’s vantage point, we can imagine that he chose daily to live with eternity in mind, with excitement, and without fear.

Choosing to live with eternity in mind can bring a sense of fear to one as well as excitement and anticipation to another. Where do you find yourself when thinking about eternity? Explain.

Doug used the analogy of a rope and likened it to life here on earth (the red) and life in eternity (the white). He invited us into a personal experience he had with his friend on the slopes at Breckenridge that changed his vantage point forever. As he was sharing this story, he saw his friend come to the brink of eternity. Doug also reminded us that we too are on the brink of eternity, everyday.

When you hear that we are all on the brink of eternity, what does this stir within you?

Have you personally ever experienced a near death experience? If not, think of someone you know or a tragedy that has occurred. How has this brought a different vantage point for you when thinking of eternity?

How did Doug’s challenge to live with less apathy and more urgency change your vantage point when it comes to eternity and those in your life who don’t know the person of Jesus?

M O V E

Read 2 Corinthians 28:19-20

How does this passage shift your perspective for now and for eternity? Explain.

Doug stated a quote from Randy Alcorn that says, “The present Heaven is a temporary residence where the departed saints live until the return of Christ and our bodily resurrection.

The eternal Heaven, the New Earth, is our true home.” Knowing that this Earth is not our true home, we can have the shift in perspective that even when walking through hard times, it won’t last forever. In fact, scripture says in James 4:24, “you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” Let us fix our eyes on the things unseen, the New Earth, with Jesus. This changes everything. It brings such a beautiful freedom because we are not stuck in the pain of trouble and hardships. This is all temporary and making us long for our true home, Heaven even more.

When you think of Heaven as your true home, how does this change how you receive hardships and trouble in your own life as well as in the world around you?

This Weeks Challenge:

- **Read Revelation 21 & 22**
- **Who is Jesus to you? This week, who is one person in your life that you can share this with?**

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...
-Revelation 12:11*