



Supernatural – Is This Worth It? Pastor Rich Harris 11.26.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NLT]

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

[Isaiah 53:5, 9-10, NLT]

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.

[1 Corinthians 15:5-8, NLT]

He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

[1 Corinthians 15:16-19, NLT]

And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

[1 Corinthians 15:20, NLT]

But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

[1 Corinthians 15:42, 54-57, NLT]

. . . Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. There are eternal rewards for the redeemed in the next life directly connected to our stewardship of this one

[1 Peter 1:4-5, NLT]

and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

[Revelation 22:12, NLT]

Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.

[1 Corinthians 3:13-15, ESV]

each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

[2 Timothy 4:8, NIV]

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

[Matthew 5:11-12, ESV]

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

[Luke 6:35, ESV]

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

[1 Corinthians 15:58, ESV]

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

[1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, NLT]

After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! Yes, you are our pride and joy.

2. There are two different resurrections and two different eternal destinations

[John 5:28-29, ESV]

. . . for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his [Jesus's] voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

[Revelation 21:1-4, 8, NLT]

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

[John 3:16-17, NIV]

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Key Points:

1. There are eternal rewards for the redeemed in the next life directly connected to our stewardship of this one.
2. There are two different resurrections and two different eternal destinations.

Application for the Week:

Pastor Rich asked the question, "How are you stewarding the things God has given to you in this life?" Start the New Year by taking your next step and attend Discover. Find out how to serve with your talents and gifts here at TFH and beyond. Register for Discover today by clicking [HERE](#).

Discussion Questions

1. What is your understanding of life after death? How does belief differ in Christianity versus other faith backgrounds?
2. What does Paul say about our faith if Christ did not die and rise? Why does that matter? (See 1 Corinthians 15:16-19)
3. Why is Jesus's resurrection vital to our faith and future? (See 1 Corinthians 15:20)
4. How are you stewarding your life?
5. What are you doing with the things God has loaned you in this life? Are you building something that is temporary or eternal? (See 1 Corinthians 3:13-15)
6. What is the reward for those that lead others to Jesus?
7. If you could imagine the heart and response of our Heavenly Father for one of His children brought home to faith, what do you think would look like?
8. Who are some people you are showing the grace and compassion of Jesus? Have you invited them to church yet? If not, extend an invite for our Christmas services?