



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - September 9, 2012

Sermon

Heaven is for Real:

*“Why Should We Care
About Heaven?”*

John 5:24-29

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 9/10/12

John 5:24

Eternal life. Doesn't this sound great? And all it requires is ears that are open to God's word and faith. Do you believe? Is heaven for real? What do you believe? These words in John's gospel are Jesus' words. Do you believe them? He is saying that eternal life is possible for those who believe and have faith. We have the hope and possibility of moving beyond death into life! What a wonderful gift! You do believe, don't you?

Tuesday 9/11/12

John 5:25

Jesus often talked in words that were mysterious and fascinating. Many of the parables were like this. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed..." But these words in John's gospel take the cake. What could he possibly mean that the ears of the dead will have life again? Do you think Jesus has the power to make the seemingly impossible possible? Are you listening for the voice of God in your life today?

Wednesday 9/12/12

John 5:26

This verse reveals a very simple formula. It is similar to a mathematical equation. If $a = b$ and $b = c$, then $a = c$. If God has eternal life, and Jesus is God's Son, then Jesus must have eternal life, too! God sent Jesus into the world to live among us and experience the joys and pains of living in this world. Then Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. Finally, Jesus was resurrected to new and eternal life. The wonderful thing about this reality is that we are offered this eternal life, too! Faith and belief are key. What do you believe? Where is your faith?



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<p>Things to do this week in response to the sermon...</p> <p><i>What customs or traditions do I celebrate at Christmas?</i></p> <p><i>What makes Christmas special to me?</i></p>	<p>Thursday 9/13/12 John 5:27</p> <p>God gave Jesus authority when he was on the earth. He could teach with authority, heal with authority, and even raise the dead with authority. His role and place in God's plan is obvious. Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. He is also given the authority to be judge over all humankind. Some day each one of us will meet our Maker. We will have to give account of our life to our Judge. Jesus is this one! Judge, jury, and everything. Are you prepared?</p>
<p><i>How can I spread some Christmas cheer to someone else this year?</i></p>	<p>Friday 9/14/12 John 5:28</p> <p>Some people act surprised even though they know what might be coming their way. Don't be like them. Being prepared helps us to avoid unpleasant surprises. Being prepared requires growing in our faith and not becoming or remaining stagnant. God expects us to grow. This is why worship, Sunday School, and Small Groups are so important to our faith-learning. Are you growing your faith? How are you growing your faith? Is there something more you can do?</p>
	<p>Saturday 9/15/12 John 5:29</p> <p>Judgment Day is coming. It cannot be avoided. It is coming to each and every one of us. It is not just about good works, even though they are important. It is about good works and faith. When this combination is present in a person's life, then he or she will receive new life. If these mandatory qualities are missing in a person's life then judgment is the result. Are you producing good works in your life now? Is your faith strong? Then you will receive new life in Jesus! Don't be like the other ones who do evil and face a more difficult path. Be faithful and do good works!</p>