Introduction: Why Study Heaven?

1. Our ___________________________ are crippling us.
   - Common misconceptions
   - Predictable results

2. We’re __________________________ to do so.  Colossians 3:1-4

3. A faulty view of heaven destines us to a _____________ life on earth.  
   John 14:1-11
A Theology of Heaven

Definition – 3 uses of the word:

1.
2.
3.

The promise of heaven:

- It’s a real, tangible, place (John 14)
- The Father is there (Matthew 6:9)
- Jesus is at His right hand (Hebrews 9:24)
- Believing loved ones are there (Hebrews 12:23)
- Our names are recorded there (Luke 10:20)
- We have an inheritance there (1 Peter 1:4)
- Our citizenship is there (Philippians 3:20)
- Specific, eternal rewards given (Matthew 6:9-21)
- It’s the best of earth…better (Revelation 22)
- Sin, death, and sorrow are absent (Revelation 22)
- Adventure, work, discovery and rulership await us (Revelation 22)

Heaven in historical context:

1. Past: Eden (Genesis 1-2)
2. Present: Intermediate Heaven (Genesis 3- Revelation 20)
   Philippians 1:20-21
   2 Corinthians 5:6
3. Future: New Heaven on New Earth (Revelation 22)
Understanding heaven requires a macroscopic view of ________________
and a microscopic view of God’s _________________ for His people.

Macro view of scripture:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With man on</td>
<td>Separated from man</td>
<td>With man on a</td>
<td>With man on a</td>
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<tr>
<td>perfect earth</td>
<td>and a cursed earth</td>
<td>temporary earth</td>
<td>perfect earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesis 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Genesis 3 – Rev 20</td>
<td>Revelation 20</td>
<td>Revelation 21 &amp; 22</td>
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Micro view of God’s responses:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JESUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>In Theophany visits</td>
<td>The incarnate Savior</td>
<td>King of Kings</td>
<td>The Emmanuel</td>
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<td>earth</td>
<td>and Redeemer</td>
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<td>forever</td>
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Summary: God _________________ to be with His people!
An Accurate View of Heaven Provides…

• ______________________ in times of trouble  2 Corinthians 4

• ______________________ in times of temptation  John 14

• ______________________ when under pressure  Matthew 6

Application / Discussion Questions:

1. Prior to today’s message, how would you rank your knowledge about heaven?
   
   Minimal  Expert
   1 _____________________________ 10

2. What did you learn today that shifted your view of heaven? It’s importance? It’s attractiveness?

3. What relationship do you see between overcoming challenges/temptations and one’s view of heaven?

4. What are you facing today that requires perspective? Perseverance? Priorities?