

# Will Heaven Be Perfectly Boring?

by Hank Hanegraaff

An all-too-prevalent perception in Christianity and the culture is that heaven is going to be one big bore. Pardon the golf analogy, but I have heard more than one person say that a never-ending repetition of hole-in-ones would make even Tiger Woods want to give up the game. That, however, is far from what heaven will be. Rather, heaven will be a place of continuous learning, growth and development. By nature, humans are finite, and that is how it always will be. Thus, while we will have an incredible capacity to learn, we will never come to the end of learning. In the words of philosopher

Peter Kreeft:

“Knowing everything would be more like Hell than Heaven for us. For one thing, we need progress and hope. We need to look forward to knowing something new tomorrow. Mystery is our mind’s food. If we truly said,

“Imagine being able to love another human being without even a tinge of selfishness.”

‘I have seen everything,’ (Ecclesiastes 1:14), we would conclude, as did the author of Ecclesiastes, ‘all is vanity’ (Ecclesiastes 12:8). For another thing, the more knowledge, the more responsibility (James 3:1; Luke 12:48). Only omnipotence can bear the burden of omniscience; only God’s shoulders are strong

enough to carry the burden of infinite knowledge without losing the joy.” (Peter Kreeft, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Heaven...But Never Dreamed of Asking* [San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990], 27.)

To begin with, we will never come to the end of exploring our Creator. God by nature is infinite, and we are limited. Thus, what we now merely apprehend about the Creator we will spend an eternity seeking to comprehend.





Imagine finally beginning to get a handle on how God is one in nature and three in person. Or how Jesus Christ can at once be fully God and fully man.

Imagine exploring the depths of God's love, wisdom and holiness. Imagine forever growing in our capacities to fathom his immensity, immutability and incomprehensibility. And to top it all off, the more we come to know him, the more there will be to know.

Furthermore, we will never come to an end of exploring the Creator's creative handiwork. The universe will literally be our playground. Even if we were capable of exhausting the "new heavens and new earth" (Revelation 21:1), God could create brand-new vistas for us to explore. I love the way A. A. Hodge puts it:

"Heaven, as the eternal home of the divine Man and of all the redeemed members of the human race, must necessarily be thoroughly human in its structure, conditions and activities. Its joys and activities must all be rational, moral,

emotional, voluntary and active. There must be the exercise of all the faculties, the gratification of all tastes, the development of all talent capacities, the realization of all ideals. The reason, the intellectual curiosity, the imagination, the aesthetic instincts, the holy affections, the social affinities, the inexhaustible resources of strength and power native to the human soul must all find in heaven exercise and satisfaction. Then there must always be a goal of endeavor before us, ever future." (A.A. Hodge, *Evangelical Theology*; quoted in Peter Toon, *Heaven and Hell* [Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986], 158.)

We will never come to the end of exploring fellow Christians. Our ability to appreciate one another will be enhanced exponentially. In the words of B.H. Streeter, our love for one another will be of an "intenser quality, will lavish itself on a wide range of persons, and will always express itself more freely and in more diverse ways" (Toon, *Heaven and Hell*, 158).

"Imagine exploring the depths of God's love, wisdom and holiness."

"Far from being dead and dull, heaven will be an exhilarating, exciting experience that will never come to an end."

Imagine being able to love another human being without even a tinge of selfishness. Imagine appreciating, no, reveling in the exalted capacities and station that God bestows on another without so much as a modicum of jealousy.

Will heaven be perfect? Absolutely. Will it be boring? Absolutely not! We will learn without error—but make no mistake about it, we will learn, we will grow and we will develop. In heaven, Kreeft eloquently explains, "we remain like the tiny figures in a Chinese landscape: small subjects in an enormously larger objective world" (*Heaven*, 28). Far from being dead and dull, heaven will be an exhilarating, exciting experience that will never come to an end. □

*Adapted from Hank Hanegraaff, Resurrection (Word Publishing, 2000).*

*Hank Hanegraaff is the Director of Christian Research Institute and the voice of the radio program, "The Bible Answer Man."*