



# When We All Get to Heaven

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 November 24, 2024  
“The Heart of the Law”



### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love, your mercy, and your grace. You are great and worthy of our praise and service. Father, you call us to love others as you have loved us through your Son, but as you know, we don't always get this right. For the times we put rules over people, we are sorry and ask for your forgiveness. Help us to see when we become religious hypocrites and then teach us to turn from our actions and follow you and your command to love others. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Romans 3:10 (NIV)

*“There is no one righteous, not even one.”*

#### Romans 3:23 (NIV)

*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

#### Luke 22:19-20 (NIV)

*And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

#### Romans 5:8, 10 (NIV)

*<sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us... <sup>10</sup>For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him.*

#### John 3:17 (NIV)

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Many people believe that good people go to heaven. However, according to Jesus, *good* people don't go to heaven, *forgiven* people go to heaven. A question that arises in response to the idea that forgiven people go to heaven is this: “If rule keeping won't get you into heaven, then why all the rules? Why 613 commandments?” In another words, what is the role of rules in Christianity?

God through Moses provides for the nation of Israel a constitution and civil laws, including punishment and rules of how to conduct their lives because they never functioned independently. But these rules did not establish the relationship, when it comes to God, relationship precedes the rules. If your view of religion emphasized rules over a relationship with God and others, you're not alone. But Jesus came to introduce a new way of thinking. God loves you more than he loves rules. We are reconciled to God by grace; we choose to obey out of gratitude.

## QUESTIONS

1. What were the most repeated rules in your home growing up?
2. Did you ever feel like your parents' love or acceptance was contingent upon your obedience?
3. What role would you say rules or guidelines should play in a relationship?
4. How many of the Ten Commandments can you recite? Growing up, what kind of weight were the Ten Commandments given in your family? What about now? How does today's message influence your view of the Ten Commandments?
5. Read John 3:17 (on page 1), where Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, a Pharisee - someone who had a passion for keeping all of God's laws. What keywords stand out to you and why? Why would Jesus feel Nicodemus needed to hear this?
6. Have you ever wondered if God's love for you was contingent upon your obedience to his rules? If not, why not? If so, why?

## FINAL APPLICATION

This week, write a list of things you are thankful for and feel blessed.