BASIC BELIEFS OF THE CHURCH
SESSION 12: FUTURE LIFE

IN THIS SESSION

The future life is linked with the promise of resurrection and life with God forever in the new heavens and new earth. This Session will explore the meaning and significance of these concepts and provide a biblical motivation for "resurrection living" in the present.

KEY PASSAGES

- **1 Corinthians 15:20-24** [20] But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. [22] For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. [23] But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. [24] Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.
- **Revelation 21:1-3** [1] Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. [2] I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

DISCUSS

- What is the future life for a follower of Jesus? Why is it so difficult to get our heads wrapped around this idea?
- How does the Bible's vision of the future life shape the way Christians are to live life in the present? What are some aspects of your life that might change or be reshaped in view of resurrection, judgment and the final, definitive victory over sin and death?
- How does a biblical understanding of the future life become a source for our mission? In other words, what does the portrait the Bible gives of the New Heavens and the New Earth do to motivate you to live and give away the gospel?

PRAY

- Read Revelation 21:1-8. Pray that God would give you a deep sense of longing for the new heavens and new earth and to anticipate the wonderful life with him that accompanies the portrait of that passage. Also, ask God to give you a profound sense of how this glimpse of the future informs our attitudes and actions in the present. Finally, praise God and thank him for all you've come to understand and know throughout this E4 Study!