



WHAT ABOUT...? · COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY · WEEK 12

But What About Eternity?

A guided conversation from the June 28, 2026 sermon by Kent Keller

SUMMARY

Pastor Kent closed the "But What About?" series with the biggest question of all: what happens the moment after we die? His answer is more hopeful than most of us imagine — and it isn't abstract for him. Two weeks earlier he buried a lifelong friend, Dan Feltham, and preached this knowing exactly where Dan is.

When you breathe your last, one of three things happens — nothing, reincarnation, or you step into eternity and stand before the God who made you. Kent stakes everything on the third: everybody lives forever, and the only question is location.

From Revelation 21, three truths anchor a Christian's hope: death is a reality but not a finality; heaven is a way station, not our final destination; and earth will be perfected, not rejected — the new heaven and new earth where God comes down to dwell with His people.

And underneath it all, one promise for everyone who grieves: He will wipe away every tear. No more death, mourning, crying, or pain. The door is wide open — salvation is freely offered in Christ to anyone who will receive it.

PRAYER OPENING PRAYER

Father, You hold our days in Your hands, the first and the last. As we talk about death and eternity tonight, steady us with hope and not fear. Speak to anyone here carrying fresh grief, and to anyone who has never settled where they will spend forever. Turn our eyes to the risen Christ, who broke death for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

START ICE BREAKER

Kent admitted he thinks about death and eternity a lot — not morbidly, but because he sits with people in their final hours. Be honest: do you think about eternity often, rarely, or almost never? What tends to bring it to mind for you?

REVELATION 21:1-5 • ESV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:26 & HEBREWS 9:27 • ESV

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ... And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

ROMANS 8:18-21 • ESV

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

01 THREE OPTIONS.

Kent said that at death, one of three things happens: nothing, reincarnation, or you step into eternity and stand before God. Before tonight, which of those three had you mostly lived as if it were true? What makes the third — the Bible's answer — believable to you, or hard to believe?

02 A DEFEATED ENEMY.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:26 and Hebrews 9:27 together. Kent said he hates death — and so did Jesus, who wept at Lazarus's tomb — yet death is a 'defeated enemy.' How is it both a real enemy AND a defeated one at the same time? Why does it matter that the Bible never tells a grieving person to pretend death isn't real?

03 NOT FINALITY.

Where in your life right now does death or loss feel like it's getting the last word? What would change this week if you actually believed it does not?

04 A WAY STATION.

Kent said heaven, as wonderful as it is, is the 'layover, not the home' — the real hope is a new heaven and new earth where God comes down to us (Revelation 21:3). How is that bigger or different from the version of heaven you grew up picturing (harps, clouds, floating souls)?

05 PERFECTED, NOT REJECTED.

Read Romans 8:18-21. Kent showed the symmetry between Genesis and Revelation — what was lost is not scrapped but restored. Why does it matter that God plans to renew this world rather than throw it away? How does that shape how you treat your body, your work, and creation now?

06 EVERY TEAR.

Read Revelation 21:4 slowly. Who in your life most needs to hear that God will personally wipe away every tear? What would it look like to carry that promise to them this week – not as a cliché, but as comfort?

07 LOCATION SETTLED.

Kent said 'everybody lives forever; the only question is location' – and that question is settled at the cross, where salvation is freely offered to anyone who will receive it. If someone in this group isn't sure where they stand, how can the group help them take that step without pressure or shame?

08 EVEN SO, COME.

Kent ended with the church's oldest prayer: 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus.' What is one area of your life where longing for Christ's return would actually change how you live tomorrow?

APPLY

LIFE APPLICATION

Kent's whole message lands on a settled hope that changes how we grieve, how we live, and how we invite others in. Pick at least one of these to actually do this week.

- 1 Carry the promise to someone grieving.** Think of one person who has lost someone, or who is facing their own decline. Reach out this week – a call, a visit, a written note – and gently share the hope of Revelation 21:4, that He will wipe away every tear. Don't fix; just sit with them and point to Christ.
- 2 Settle your own 'location.'** If you have never received the payment Christ made for your sins, don't wait. Go to Him, confess your sin, and receive it – it's freely offered. If you're unsure, tell someone in this group tonight and let them walk with you. Then start the 5-day devotional on this message at app.christchurchmiami.org/devo.
- 3 Live like this world gets renewed.** Because earth will be perfected, not rejected, pick one ordinary thing – your work, your home, a corner of creation, your own body – and steward it this week as something God intends to redeem, not discard. Do it as worship.

You don't have to clean yourself up before you come, and you don't have to have it all figured out. Everybody lives forever – and in Christ, your forever is settled. The grave is real, but it is not the end of the sentence.

REMEMBER

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Everybody lives forever; the only question is location.
- ▶ Death is a reality, but not a finality – a real enemy, but a defeated one.
- ▶ Heaven is a way station, not our final destination.
- ▶ Earth shall be perfected, not rejected – God renews this world, not replaces it.
- ▶ He will wipe away every tear: no more death, mourning, crying, or pain.
- ▶ Salvation is freely offered in Christ – go to Him and receive it.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. – Revelation 21:4

Lord God Almighty, You have been so good to us in this life, and yet we know we were made for more. Between now and the day You make all things new, help us to be faithful – to glorify You in these frail bodies, to comfort those who mourn, and to invite the undecided home. We trust You with our last breath and our forever. Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

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