



HEAVEN EARTH

Heaven on Earth: An Extra Measure of Grace

September 5th & 6th

Speaker: Dr. Mark Batterson

Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-2

Series Overview

Our identity, our authority is anchored in a dimension of reality called heaven. It is the domain of God's dominion — perfect harmony, true identity, full authority. Every blessing is ours in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 1:3). Heaven is invading earth right here, right now. How? With a supernatural demonstration of God's love and power and wisdom. As citizens of heaven, we represent the heavenly realm. The goal? On earth, as it is in heaven.

Series Discussion Questions

How did you witness heaven invading earth this week?

Message Overview

As the people of God, we live counterculture. When we love our enemies, heaven invades earth. When we pray for those who persecute us, heaven invades earth. When we bless those who curse us, heaven invades earth. How? Grace and peace. Paul begins each of his thirteen epistles with those two words, and they pack a one-two punch. We have a vaccine against cancel culture — the grace of God. We have a vaccine against political polarization and racial discord — the peace of God. We are grace-givers and peacemakers.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

Watch the Bible Project's [video on the book of Ephesians](#). What do you learn?

Read Ephesians 1:1-2. How have you experienced the sanctification of God as both a past-tense and present-tense reality?

Different places have different idols. As you think about your community and your city, what idols can you identify? How might you operate in the opposite spirit?

The only ceiling on your intimacy with God and your impact on the world is daily spiritual disciplines. What do daily spiritual disciplines look like in your life right now?

Pastor Mark zeroed in on grace and peace in his message this week ...

Grace is the unmerited favor of God, getting what you do not deserve, and loving people who don't look, vote, or think like you. How has God extended grace to you lately? How can you do the same for someone else?

Read Mark 4:35-39. What does Jesus offer when it comes to peace?

We are the grace-givers. We are the peacemakers. All of us — every single person we know — is fighting a battle we know nothing about. How can you give grace this week? How can you make peace?

Practical Application

- Each day this week, pray [the Lord's Prayer](#) at consistent moments — mornings, lunchtime, or before you go to bed each night. Insert the name of a specific community you belong to, e.g. your neighborhood, your workplace, your city, your church community, as you pray.
- Find a daily rhythm of connecting with God and with one another by committing to [NCC Daily](#), a new five-minute audio podcast to help you walk verse-by-verse through the book of Ephesians. Invite a few others to do so with you, connecting throughout the week via Marco Polo or a group text, or meeting together online or in person to discuss and debrief what you're learning.
- Climb the stairs to the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. Join us as we start our days in His presence together, listening intently, and responding in prayer. Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom.