

Surprised by Hope

Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Please read chapter 13, and answer these questions as you read.

Chapter 13

- I. Who builds God's kingdom? Does he use any creatures from his creation? Who?
How? Does this have anything to do with God's image?
- II. Wright indicates there are two extremes into which Christians tend to slide. What
are these? What have been the risk(s) for you and for the Christian fellowships you
have attended? What does Wright say of these perspectives?
- III. What does Wright indicate is the biggest problem today? What are the arguments
he encounters against this? What are your thoughts?

IV. What is your reaction to an evangelist? Becoming an evangelist?

V. What does Wright claim is 'the gospel' in the New Testament? Do you agree? Do you think this is a better message than the more common messages Wright notes?

VI. Wright briefly describes the challenges of the community in which he grew up including the loss of industry due to decisions by people the community has never met. Are there similar challenges in where you live? What can the church do?



VII. Wright claims many communities in both the post-industrial West and poorer nations display an ugliness. He claims this is displayed in a post-war architecture that stressed function over form/beauty, the passivity of decades of television, and bleak, urban landscapes. Do you see this where you live? Where/how? How could the church make your neighborhood or community/city more beautiful?

For some ideas, Wright notes, “Part of the role of the church has been in the past, and could and should be again, to foster and sustain lives of beauty and aesthetic meaning at every level, from music-making in the village pub to drama in the local primary school, from artists’ and photographers’ workshops to still-life painting classes, from symphony concerts (well, they managed them in the concentration camps; how inventive might we be?) to driftwood sculptures.”

VIII. According to Wright, where will evangelism flourish best? Why?



This study guide is written to guide study and discussions of *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* by N. T. Wright. The full set of study guides is available at <https://livingintograce.com/2022/02/21/study-guide-questions-for-surprised-by-hope-rethinking-heaven-the-resurrection-and-the-mission-of-the-church-by-n-t-wright/>. While based on the book, this guide was not prepared in cooperation with the author, N. T. Wright, nor the publishers (SPCK and HarperOne).



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