

Surprised by Hope

Chapter 15 Study Questions

Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Please read chapter 15, and answer these questions as you read.

Chapter 15


1. Wright believes we throw Easter away year-by-year. What does he recommend? How could your church faithfully magnify the Easter experience?
2. The author validates and challenges both traditional and new expressions of congregational life in writing, “let’s not dampen our enthusiasm of new expressions of Christian life, but let’s also not throw the banana away with the skin.” How would you challenge and validate these two types of fellowships and their worship? How could your own congregation’s worship be improved?

3. The book refers to the Celtic tradition of “thin spaces” — places where heaven and earth seem to come together or where heaven can be seen or experienced more abundantly. Have you experienced this? If so, where and when?

4. Wright challenges the church to take sacred space seriously. Worship and the church should not be a retreat from the world but a bridgehead into it. We should go straight from worshipping in the sanctuary into the council chamber. How does your church do this? How should we be doing this? Where could we engage our government and our world? What might be the result if the church was more active or met God where God was already working to transform the world?

5. But, Wright offers a warning that the church needs to learn arts of collaboration without compromise and opposition without dualism. Where might the church in your area risk falling into these two traps or fail to engage them at all?



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8. The well-known chapter in 1 Corinthians about love (1 Cor 13), is “frustratingly incomplete” according to Wright. How is this? Why is it incomplete according to Wright?

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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