

Week 14 | Salvation & Eternity

What happens after I die?

Did you know that death is nothing to be afraid of? It sure wasn't for the Apostle Paul. In Philippians 1:21 he said, *"For to me to live is Christ, and die is gain."* Will death be an a_____ adventure or an a_____ adventure?

King Solomon was considered the wisest man on the planet. And yet, he said something curious. In Ecclesiastes 7:2 (NIV) he said, *"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting."*

In the rest of the verse we see the wisdom of Solomon, because he goes on to say at the end of Ecclesiastes 7:2, *"... for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart."*

We know we're not immortal yet sometimes we live like it. Like we have all the time in the world ahead of us.

Death will happen to each of us. And death is no respecter of age or title. It can happen anytime, anywhere, to anyone. And that's why Solomon said, *"the living should take this to heart."*

In other words, *"Are we ready to die?"* Have we embraced Jesus as Lord and Savior? Are we living a life fully devoted to Him? Like Paul, can we say *"to die is gain"* because we have lived faithfully for the Savior?

The author of Hebrews in regards to death...

"And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." Hebrews 9:27-28

We all will be _____. We will all give an _____ for our lives. Where will that judgment lead to? These are questions we all have to answer with how we live our lives.



Whole Group Discussion

What are some different ways people react to death?

How much should judgment and reward motivate us as followers of Jesus?

What do you think the rewards in heaven will be?

The ultimate judgment for the unbeliever will be The Great White Throne judgment. And it will show that their names were not written in the Book of Life (according to Revelation 20:11-15). And ultimately they will spend the rest of eternity in a place called hell.

For the believer, they will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ which is talked about in 1 Corinthians 3 and 2 Corinthians 5. This isn't a judgment about heaven or hell.

Heaven was _____ for us when we repented of sin and placed our faith in Christ. No, the Judgment Seat of Christ is a judgment about works. About fruit for the Kingdom of God.

In 1 Corinthians 3:14 it says that those who used their time, talents, and treasures to advance the Kingdom of God "*will receive a reward.*"

But for those who didn't fully give all for Christ and His kingdom, it says in the next verse, v. 15, "*he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*"

We don't know what those rewards are going to look like. Paul describes trophies and crowns, but that was probably metaphorical. It very well may mean positions in heaven, which Matthew 25 may be describing. Ultimately, it comes down to two places for everyone. It's either h_____ or it's _____.

It's not popular these days to talk about hell. And yet... Do you know who in the Bible talked about hell more than anyone? It was Jesus.

Some may argue that it's not fair for a loving God to send people to hell. But one could argue that God isn't _____ people to hell, they are _____ hell.

Quote by C.S. Lewis...

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened."

The realities of hell should fan the flame of e_____ in each of us who know Christ. We can't scare hell out of people. They must choose Christ out of love not fear.

The reality of hell for those in our lives who don't yet know Christ, should very much _____ us to share the good news of the gospel with them.

A part of the good news is that we will spend an eternity in an incredible place known as heaven. The Bible gives us a glimpse of heaven, not the whole picture.

If we knew everything about heaven we would be tempted to worship the place instead of the Person who will be there.

Revelation 21-22 gives us the most detail about heaven. We see what the place will _____ like; crystal-like river of life, streets of gold, mansions.

Look at what heaven will be like, *“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”* (Revelation 21:4).

As the song goes, “I can only imagine.” A perfect God, a perfect place, with perfect people, forever, and ever, and ever.

What ultimately makes heaven, heaven, is that we will _____ God face to face and will love and _____ Him with one another forever.

The beauty of the place is just a bonus. Death is an awfully big adventure. The choice is up to you...will it be an awful or an awesome adventure?



Small Group Discussion

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 & 2 Corinthians 5:10,12-21. What do we learn about the future judgment in these verses? How should this motivate how we prioritize our time, talents, and treasures?

What does it mean to have the “ministry of reconciliation”? Who needs this ministry in your life?



Prayer Focus

How are you doing as an “ambassador for Christ?” Take time to ask God to open up doors for sharing the gospel with others.