

What Does Your Future Hold?

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

1. Christians are to walk by faith and to live a life for Jesus Christ.

A. Notice what the apostle Paul says:

2 Corinthians 5:7-8 For we **walk by faith**, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and **to be present with the Lord**.

Philippians 1:21-23 For to me, **to live is Christ**, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, **having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better**.

2. All of us have a life story. We are making history.

Psalms 90:10-12

3. How will your life end, meaning where will you spend eternity?

Psalms 39:4 "LORD, **make me to know my end**, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am.

4. Death means separation - Physically, separation from life and spiritually, separation from God if we're not a faithful Christian.

5. All of us are eternal beings ----- we have no choice!!

6. The spirit lives and always will live.

James 2:26 For as **the body without the spirit is dead**, so faith without works is dead also.

Righteousness vs Unrighteousness

1. **At the final judgment, the unrighteous will be cast into hell while the righteous will rest with God in the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 13:41-43

2. **Children of God will be transformed and will be able to see God just as He is!**

1 John 3:1-2 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that **we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

3. **Our body will be changed by God's power.**

Philippians 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that **it may be conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

4. **That is why Paul could write in Romans 8:18:**

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory** which shall be revealed in us.

5. **But the unrighteous will not even taste the glory of God.**

Revelation 14:11 And **the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night**, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

At Death - Where Does the Spirit Go?

1. The unrighteous spirit goes into torment.

2PE 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

2. The righteous spirit awaits the judgment in paradise.

3. Luke 16:22ff contrasts two real people who lived on earth and Jesus tells us the story of what happened to their spirits. Jesus is pointing out that after death it is too late to change!

Luke 16:19-31

A. Let's notice:

- 1) The poor man was carried away to Abraham's bosom by the angels to paradise.**
- 2) The rich man was buried and was in torment.**
- 3) A chasm is fixed where none can enter the other.**
- 4) Can one remember their life? Can one remember those left on earth? (verses 27-28).**

2. Everyone has a life story - a beginning, middle, and end.

A. Our future is settled "in time" not later. (Tombstone)

B. Notice that the rich man wanted Abraham to send Lazarus back to his fathers house to warn his family.

- 1) Abrahams answer - They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them.**
- 2) Who do we have today? Jesus and the Word of God.**

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father **except through Me.**

Matthew 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

The Judgment

1. **We all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ but it is important for us to realize that this judgment is not a trial ----- it is a sentencing! – it is based upon our earthly “faith with works”**

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one **may receive the things done in the body**, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2. **The righteous dead will be changed.**

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- A. **This is why the funeral of a righteous person is filled with tears of joy, while the funeral of an unrighteous person is filled with tears of sorrow.**
3. **Life is serious - Our eternity is determined by it. Each will remember what they prayed for in this life.**
4. **Future recognition is taught in scripture (Moses, Elijah, Abraham).**
 - A. **Paul and his fellow workers with the Christians at Corinth.**

2 Corinthians 4:14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will **present us with you**. **(They'll know)**

B. How can the statement in Matthew 7:22 be made if there is not remembrance.

Matthew 7:22 **Many will say to Me in that day**, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? **(They will remember)**

C. Notice the story that Jesus told about the Judgment in Matthew 25:31ff.

Matthew 25:39-40 Or **when did we see You** sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

D. Abraham and Moses and Aaron were all gathered with those in the spirit world.

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was **gathered to his people**.

Deuteronomy 32:50 and die on the mountain which you ascend, and be **gathered to your people**, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was **gathered to his people**;

5. Those that die in Christ will be raised incorruptible - the spirit never dies!

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

A. What a wonderful thing to look forward to!

B. Faithful Christians have nothing to fear!

Conclusion

1. What kind of book is your life story writing?
2. Are you living a life for Christ as Lazarus did, or are you enjoying the riches of this life, forsaking Jesus, where you will someday be crying out “Oh how I wish I would have listened to Jesus!”
3. Do you have the confidence in your life that enables you to make the same statement Paul did about his life on this earth when his life was nearing its end?
2 Timothy 4:6-8
3. We don’t get a second change and eternity is forever!

Invitation

Place

Date

Horizontal lines for Place input

Horizontal lines for Date input