

Eternity Where?

Life is often compared to a journey and we are all the travellers. The journey is our lifetime on earth, and the final destination is joy forever in heaven...**or is it??**

A person can often spend hundreds of hours planning for their retirement years, but not a minute preparing for eternity. But why? *"For what is life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."* James 4:14.

The pleasure-seekers of this world will say *'life is for living'* and they may even say that the Bible says, "eat, drink, and be merry." But what does God say about these comments, *"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."* Luke 12:20. What God was saying here is that those who live their life promising themselves many years to come are fools as death could be just around the corner.

It is true that we are merely passing through this life to an eternal destination and this is our only opportunity to choose where that destination will be; heaven or hell. *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* Hebrews 9:27. You might consider yourself a good person and so might all your friends and family but at the judgment it isn't going to be your friends and family who decide whether you go to heaven or hell but rather an eternal, just and holy God who has said in his Word *"There is none righteous, no, not one."* Romans 3:10.

The divinely inspired Isaiah acknowledged, *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."* Isaiah 64:6.

Every single thing you've said, thought and done is recorded in a book. *"There is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid that shall not be known."* Matthew 10:26. That so called 'white' lie you told recently will be brought to your remembrance when you stand before God, *"...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof on the day of judgment."* Matthew 12:36.

The apostle John saw a vision of the judgment day and said *"I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."* Revelation 20:12. Those that are 'dead' are those who did not accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour throughout their life on earth. Anyone who receives Christ as their Saviour has their name written in the book of life. *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* Revelation 20:15.

When Jesus was on earth he said to a very religious, Jewish ruler called Nicodemus, *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* John 3:3. This confused Nicodemus as he had lived a very obedient life to God's commandments and had thought that this would get him into heaven. But as the apostle Paul says, *"Therefore by the deeds of the law (Ten Commandments) there shall be no flesh justified in his sight."* Romans 3:20.

Every religion in the world except for true bible believing Christianity relies on good works to get to heaven even though the bible, the inspired word of God, says, *"Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Ephesians 2:9. Are you relying on your works? The bible clearly teaches that there is only ONE way to heaven! Jesus said *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6.

Jesus Christ came to earth, shed his precious blood, died and rose again, all for sinful flesh, *"He laid down his life for us." 1 John 3:16.* If you refuse Jesus Christ and rely on your works, church, man made idols, baptism or sacraments, God will say to you on the day of judgment, *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41. "*

Nobody but Jesus Christ can save you. Trust in Him today! *"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.*

What to do -

1. Admit you're a sinner, *"There is none righteous, no, not one." Romans 3:10.*

2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent), *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Acts 3:19.*

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried and rose from the dead, *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9.*

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13.*

Written by Armen Thomassian, Ballymoney, Co Antrim, N.Ireland.