

ARE YOU PREPARED TO STEP INTO ETERNITY?

As I began this pamphlet, I considered titling it, “Are You Prepared to Die?” but I thought it a bit more positive to go with this title, although they are both actually one-in-the-same.

We are already in what might be called “eternity” according to at least one definition.

Eternity is defined as

1. Time without beginning or end; infinite time.
2. The state or quality of being eternal.
3.
 - a. The timeless state following death.
 - b. The afterlife; immortality.

There are other definitions as well but for sake of this conversation, we will consider these. From one perspective, we could say we look at all time as eternity past and eternity future. The subject for this pamphlet, however, is 3a.: “The timeless state following death.”

I’ve heard it said there are only two sure things, “Death and taxes.” The truth is there are some who do not pay taxes but I know of no one who will not someday leave this life. The question at hand, therefore, is, “What happens then?”

It really does not matter that there are many who have chosen to believe that there is no heaven or hell, that death is the end for one ceases to exist in his entirety at the instant of death. Nor does it matter that others choose to believe in reincarnation, believing that we all return to earth in another body, or another form. The fact is that these are simply theories developed by some who desire to eliminate God from the equation.

To those who believe something other than what the Bible teaches, we would ask them, “What is the basis for your belief?” We who believe in the

teaching of the Bible have numerous reasons why we believe the Bible is God’s Word and therefore worthy of providing instruction regarding matters of both this life and the next. Certainly, any other provider of information should be held to the same standard as the Bible and yet, there is nothing to compare, or even come close to comparing to it.

In dealing with the subject at hand, determining whether or not you are prepared to step into eternity, I ask again, “Are you?” Surely you know you will one day die and you also know that it may be without warning much sooner than you might think. If one can be prepared, it only makes sense to get prepared now.

The Bible makes it clear that we can be ready, at least from a spiritual perspective. In fact, the solution is much simpler than you might think. You could be prepared before completing the reading of this pamphlet.

There are just a few things you need to understand. I’ll number them as I present them.

- 1) You are in desperate need of a Savior for without one your destiny is a place that is called Hell or “the Lake of Fire.”
- 2) The reason you are doomed to go to Hell is because you have sinned and no sin can enter heaven for it is a perfect place and sin would defile it. The Bible clearly tells us that the wages of sin is death, referring to both a physical and spiritual death. Death is a separation. Physical death is a separation of the soul and spirit from the body and spiritual death is an eternal separation from God.
- 3) There is nothing we can do to deserve heaven. The Bible clearly teaches that eternal life is “not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9) There are many other verses that teach this.

- 4) God, in His mercy, chose to make the payment for sin for us. He left heaven’s glory and took upon human flesh to become both God and man for us. He lived a perfect life and when he died on the cross at Calvary, He gave His life for us. He was the perfect sacrifice, paying a debt He did not owe and one we could never completely pay.
- 5) God tells us that the only way we can benefit from His payment for our sins is to believe Him for it. Jesus (God in the flesh) tells us that those of us who believe in Him already possess eternal life (John 6:47) and shall never come into judgment for they have already passed from death unto life. (John 5:24) He said in John 1:12 that the way to receive Him as our Savior is to “believe in His name” and in John 3:18 we are told, “He that believes in Him is not condemned.”
- 6) Once we receive Jesus as our Savior by believing in His name (which means to believe that He will do as His name implies), we are born into God’s family. The name Jesus means “God our Savior.”
- 7) God clearly teaches that once we are saved from the penalty of our sins, we have no reason to fear ever being lost again. We are kept by the power of God and are in Jesus’ hand. (1 Peter 1:4-5; John 10:28)

Yes, it is really that simple. Some argue, “You cannot simply say you believe and then you are saved!” I agree. Nobody is ever saved by saying he believes; he is saved by believing! The word “believe” means “to trust, rely upon, or place confidence in.” Thus, to believe in Jesus is to trust Him to save you and not depend on anyone or anything else. Believing in Jesus is the sole requirement for receiving eternal life. This is spelled out some 90+ times in the Gospel of

John, the only book in the Bible that was written specifically to unbelievers so that they could believe and receive life through the name of Jesus (John 20:31).

I want to add a few points to reassure you that eternal life is a gift and cannot be gained by any kind of religious work or action.

1) Eternal life is a gift. By definition, a gift is something that cannot be earned.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23)

But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

(Romans 5:15-17)

What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is

accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

(Romans 4:1-8)

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(Titus 3:4-7)

2) Eternal life is obtained by faith.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

(John 3:18)

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

(Acts 13:38-39)

[Jesus said] Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

(John 6:47)

I hope this pamphlet has helped you to see how to be prepared spiritually to step into eternity.

**(NOTE: All quoted scripture is from the New King James Version of the Bible, published by Thomas Nelson Publishers) (Scripture emphases mine.)*

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You either possess eternal life or you don't. Which is it?