

STUDY OF END TIMES AND BEYOND:

IMPORTANCE OF LIFE AFTER DEATH:

INTRODUCTION: LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY

- Life happens to us all – what does this mean?
- Two things are certain in life death and taxes – what does this mean? How does death impact us all?
- Mankind throughout the centuries and in all cultures has been intrigued by the idea of life after death – why do you think that is?
- What distortions do you think mankind has about life after death in the here and now?

Eternity should impact us greatly –

Ecclesiastes 3:11 “God has put eternity in the heart of mankind”

So if God has set eternity upon the heart of man. Eternity is something that impacts us in the here and now, because He placed that in us in this life. Therefore, Eternity should impact how we live and view the world in which we live. Eternity is more than just a future state of existence. It should be part of our DNA. We live in the light of eternity.

IN THIS SECTION WE WILL STUDY LIFE AFTER DEATH, THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE IN HEAVEN.

LIFE AFTER DEATH:

Ps 16:9-11; Dan.12:1-3; Mat.19:29; Jn 3:12-16; Jn 6:45-47; 1 Tim 6:12; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

- What is the thing that most scares you about death?
- What will it be like to take your last breath?

2 Corinthians 5:7-9

“For we walk by faith, not by sight — 8 yet we are confident and satisfied to be out of the body and at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him.

- What is the spiritual significance of these passages to the here and now?
- Where is our home?
- So what happens when you take your last breath?
- How should this change how we view life after death? How we approach death?

PSALMS 16:9-11

Therefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also rests securely. 10 For You will not abandon me to Sheol; You will not allow Your Faithful One to see the Pit. 11 You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; in Your right hand are eternal pleasures.

- What assurance of life after death do we have from this passage?

Daniel 12:1-3

At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape. 2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, *some to eternal life, and some to shame and eternal contempt*. 3 Those who are wise will shine like the right expanse [of the heavens], and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

- What is this predicting?
- What is the dualistic picture of eternity found in this passage?
- What happens to those found in the Lord according to this passage?

Matthew 19:29

29 And everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of My name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life.

- How should the light of eternity impact our behavior on earth? What are we to do?

John 3:12-16 & John 6:45-47

12 If I have told you about things that happen on earth and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about things of heaven? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven —the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 *so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life*. 16 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that *everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life*..... John 6:45 It is written in the Prophets: And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to Me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except the One who is from God. He has seen the Father. 47 " I assure you: *Anyone who believes has eternal life*.

- In light of eternity what is the way to eternity? Why is this so difficult for many to embrace?
- Have you embraced eternal life?

1 Timothy 6:12

12 Fight the good fight for the faith; *take hold of eternal life*, to which you were called and have made a good confession before many witnesses.

- What do you think it means to take hold of eternal life?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. 14 Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. 15 For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord's coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- What does it mean that we do not grieve like the rest? What does it mean to have no hope?
- What hope do we have if we are dead? What hope do we have if we are living when Christ returns?
- How important is understanding the resurrection based on this passage of Scripture and End Times?

-- NOTES BY PASTOR CHRIS McCOMBS, JULY 2009