



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

Where Will You Spend Eternity?

Chuck Northrop

The importance of this question should not be underestimated. There are questions which are obviously unimportant, but this is not one of them. ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Notice within the question, death is assumed. It is not a matter of ***if*** we will die. It is a matter of ***when*** we will die. Hebrews 9:27 says, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” God gave each one of us an assignment of death, and no matter how we try to avoid it, it will ultimately come upon us. ***So, when you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Also, assumed within the question is the belief of life after death. To some people, this is a contradiction. They think death is the end of life, and therefore how could there be life after death? However, by far, most people believe our existence does not end with death. In actuality, death is not the end of life. Death is separation. Physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body. James wrote, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:26). Likewise, spiritual death is being separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). When we pass through physical death, we go from the physical/material world into the spiritual realm of life. With these thoughts in mind, the importance of our question once again comes to light. ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Furthermore, our important question encompasses thoughts about the temporal. This physical/material realm in which we are currently living is a temporal existence. God did not design it to be eternal. It was created to be destroyed. This is true with reference to our bodies as well as the material universe. At the second coming of Jesus, all who are in the grave will come forth either unto the resurrection of life or the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29). During this great resurrection, a great change will take place. “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:53). The corruptible and mortal is our physical existence in which the body decays and is death-bound. Thus, our physical bodies were never intended to be eternal, and at the second coming of Christ, they will be changed to an incorruptible and immortal body. Also, concerning the material universe, Peter wrote, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). In this passage, the earth is the planet on which we live, and the heavens is our atmosphere. Thus, our universe will pass away, melt, and be burned up. In the very next verse, Peter made a direct application of this concept with a most penetrating question. He asked, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11)? In consideration of these thoughts, we again ask, ***when you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Finally, our important question encompasses thoughts about eternity. As we have previously noted, this physical/material realm in which we are currently living is temporal, but the spiritual realm is eternal. Once a person enters into eternity, he or she will forever be in the spiritual realm. There is no returning to this physical/material realm. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), the rich man was in torments and wanted Lazarus to return to this realm in order to warn his five brothers of the place of torment. However, “Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (Luke 16:29). The time of warning is in this life, and God’s inspired word serves that purpose. Abraham went on to explain, “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead” (Luke 16:31). In other words, if a person will not listen to God’s word which He delivered through His prophets, he or she will not be persuaded by someone who has been raised from the dead. Are you listening? ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Which is more important: the temporal or the eternal? If you are reading this, then you probably know the right answer, but is the right answer your answer, and is it your real answer? The real answer is not necessarily in your words. It is in your actions. Where do you spend most of your efforts, your wealth, and your time? Do you use these in various earthly pursuits or do you use them in preparation for the spiritual realm? Look at your life! Are you honestly preparing for eternity? ***When you die, where will you spend eternity?***

Does Everyone Have a Right to Their Own Belief?

Garland M. Robinson

In one sense, everyone does have a right to their own belief. God has given every person the freedom to do or not do whatever they choose. God does not interfere with one’s freedom of choice. However, that does not mean each person is right with God when they choose their own way. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). To follow your own counsel has never been right with God. “In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6). “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).

On the other hand, there is only one belief acceptable with God, HIS! Jesus “...said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow ME” (Luke 9:23). “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). All who do not believe in Jesus, though sincere in their belief, will not and cannot go to heaven. So, NO, everyone does not have the right to their own belief. To be acceptable with God, one must believe and do things God’s Way.

Ephesians 4:4-6 says “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” The “one body” is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23). Since there is only one body and the body is the church, there is only one church. Therefore, one church is not as good as another. Everyone does not have a right to their own belief about the church.

You either believe God’s Way or are wrong. If one does not believe and embrace the “one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God,” then he is wrong. People often believe in the one Spirit, one Lord and one God but then turn around and say they believe there are many bodies, many faiths and many baptisms. Yet, the Bible clearly says there is one body, not many; one faith, not many; one baptism, not many.

To be right with God, I do not have a right to my own belief. It is not acceptable with God for you to go your way and I go mine. We either embrace God’s Way or stand contrary to His Way.

Observations and Concerns

April 26, 2023

Welcome Visitors! A special Greetings to our special Guests.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).

Expression of Gratitude: It is far too easy to be critical of one another. Instead, let us be thankful for one another.

There will be **no potluck luncheon** in May.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** is recovering from surgery. It’s been good to have her with us some.
- ▶ **Bill Dilks** had cataract surgery on his other eye this morning. His first cataract surgery was successful.
- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** continues to have issues with her heart.
- ▶ **Jim Allison** is recovering from a fall and stint procedure. It was good to have him with us this past Lord’s Day.
- ▶ **Jacob Weston**, grandson of the Hudsons, was attacked by a dog and sustained severe injuries to his arms.
- ▶ **Shirley Hunter** is home from rehab after falling and breaking her hip.

Extended Prayer List: **Joyce Cash** – ongoing health difficulties; **Dan & Marcella Dennis** – ongoing health issues; **Bill Dilks** – undergoing cancer treatments; **Sammy Gray** – continual health concerns; **Chuck Northrop** – blood disorder; **Vance & Darla Smith** – extended health problems; **Pat Taylor** – ongoing health issues; **LeAnna Shafer** – undergoing chemotherapy treatments; **Betty Jackson** – prolonged health issues; **Sam Orr** – extended health concerns; **Amanda Georgakus** – struggling with cancer.

May Birthdays: **Andy Hudson** - 2; **Pat Taylor** - 3; **Jody Northrop** - 13; **Lynn Dilks** - 15; **Caroline Swearingen** - 19; **Hayden Praschnik** - 26; Anniversaries: **Paul & Rebekah Praschnik** - 25.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Apr.26	Sunday, Apr. 30 AM	Sunday, Apr. 30 PM
	Announcements	Russ Earl	Chuck Northrop	Paul Praschnik
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Paul Praschnik	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Doyle Jackson	Russ Earl
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Chris Nelson	Russ Earl	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Paul Praschnik	Chris Nelson
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM				
Worship 10:30 AM				
Worship 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . 7:00 PM				
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