Beyond the Sunset

What You Need To Know About Eternity

There is an eternity, and you *will* spend it somewhere! The dictionary says eternity is "without beginning or end." The Bible says the unsaved "will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46).

Where you spend eternity is so much more important than where you are now. If it took a day to get to the place where you would spend the next 10 years, which would be more important: what you needed for the day trip, or your needs for the 10-year stay? Why do we concern ourselves with getting ahead in this world, when eternity is so much more important? The Bible says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

You *can* know where you will spend eternity. Jesus knew where he was going, and said, "I go away to Him who sent Me ... Where I am, there you may be also" (John 16:5;14:3). Paul said that when our body-house is destroyed, "we have a building from God ... eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1). The Bible tells us: "These things have I written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

You will spend eternity either in heaven or in hell. Heaven is a wonderful place – with gates of pearl, a street of gold, the crystal clear river of the water of life, and the tree of life. There will be no night there, for Jesus will be the light (Revelation 21-22). By contrast, hell is described as a place of wailing, gnashing of teeth and outer darkness (Matthew 8:12). Who will be there? "Anyone not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). The unbeliever will spend eternity "in flaming fire ... punished with everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Whether you believe it or not, you will spend eternity in heaven or in hell.

Where you spend eternity depends on *what* you do with Christ today. You will not go to heaven by living a good, clean, life and by "doing the best you can." God's Word says you are a hell-bound sinner without Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23). You can only be saved by the gift of His grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). Put aside every excuse and listen to God's Word: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). If you trust Him, He will save you. To the child of God, death is not the end, but the beginning.

To spend eternity in heaven, you must *repent* and receive Christ by faith. The Bible says, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Turn away from self and turn to Christ. Just as you rest by putting all your weight on a chair, so put your future in the hands of Jesus.

Every day over 150,000 people die worldwide – that's over 100 people entering eternity every minute! Where will you spend eternity? Trust Jesus today, and it will be in heaven!

—David G. Canine

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