

“WARNING: Everyone Lives Forever!” - John 5:22-30

NKJV- *"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."*

An Illinois man left the snowballed streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day.

When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory.

Unfortunately, he missed one letter and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before.

When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor dead.

*At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: **"Dearest Wife, Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Your Loving Husband. — PS: Sure is hot down here!!"***

I. Fact #1: Everyone Will *DIE*.

II. Fact #2: Everyone Will Be *EVALUATED*.

III. Fact #3: Everyone Will *LIVE FOREVER*.

"It's not unlikely that within the last 24 hours you have heard someone say a rude phrase involving the word hell, such as "What in the hell are you doing/“, or perhaps "Who the hell do you think you are?" For many people today, the word english word "hell" has now become simply an obnoxious, and rude byword. Good friends even dare to say playfully to one another: "Go to Hell!" They surely don't mean go to the place of punishment for the wicked after death, though that is exactly how the dictionary defines this word. But why must people use the word "hell"? Why not instead say "What the jail are you doing?" or "Well I sure as school will!" or why not simply say "Go to Chicago!" ?? - John Braun, author

I. Fact #1: Everyone Will *DIE*. - *"Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when **the dead** will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live."*

- *Everyone dies.* Two people per second die. 102 people a minute. 6,136 an hour die. Rich, poor, young, old, male, female, famous, obscure - every single one of us will die someday!!
- *Our death rate is a problem to the governments of this world because the more people we get on earth, governments, especially in big cities. Politicians in many cities realize that we're running out of space to bury the dead. I read about an article in Brazil where the government there, the local government, hired an architect to help solve this problem and the architect designed a 39-story skyscraper--a necropolis--that would be able to house 147,000 corpses.*
- **There are 2 categories of "DEATH" described in the Scriptures:**
 - **PHYSICAL DEATH** - The separation of *the soul/spirit from the body* temporarily.
 - The word used here is the ancient Greek word "*necros*" (*necrosis, necrotic..*)
 - Two people per second die on earth.
 - Biblically, those who will be raptured will be the exception.
 - *"There's two things that are inevitable: death and taxes. Death and taxes."* I heard one person say, 'Well, that may be true, that death and taxes are inevitable, but death doesn't seem to get worse every time Congress meets--taxes do!'"
 - *That may be so, but death can be much worse...if, after death, you meet a holy God and you are unprepared to do so because you have no spiritual life within you - that is spiritual death! Everyone dies physically... but "spiritual death" is far worse than simply dying physically.*
 - **SPIRITUAL DEATH** - The separation of *the person from GOD* eternally.
 - We are born spiritually dead, because of SIN, and need to be made spiritually alive
 - **Eph 2:1, 4-5 NLT** - *"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins...but God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead.."*
 - ***Spiritual* resurrection GUARANTEES the *physical* resurrection of life!**

- **Jn 11:23–26 NLT** - “Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.” “Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

II. Fact #2: Everyone Will Be *EVALUATED*. - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into **judgment**, but has passed from death into life...For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute **judgment** also, because He is the Son of Man...I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, **I judge**; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

- “**judgment**” is the ancient Greek word “**crisis**” meaning “a court of law, a legal verdict/judgment.”
 - Death is not the end... it's the entrance into your eternal condition - Hebrews 9:27
- **GOD is a Father, King, Lord, Savior.... and the Eternal *JUDGE*:**
 - **OT Judgment:** Adam and Eve, Global Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, Egypt and 10 plagues, the Assyrian captivity, the Babylonian captivity...
 - **New Testament:** Capernaum, Bethsaida, Corazin (Mt 11:20-24), Jerusalem (Mt 23:37-39), Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), defiling the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:27-30)
 - **3 Coming Judgments: For Saints; for Sinners; for Survivors**
 - **For the SAINTS** (After the Rapture - 1 Cor 3; 2 Cor 5)
 - *C.T. Studd was right when he said “Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last!”*
 - This is the judgment that all Christians will face - Not a judgment for our sins, but for our service. This is where Jesus will graciously reward and compensate every act of service done for His Kingdom, with a heart of love for the Lord.
 - **For the SURVIVORS** (After the 2nd Coming - Matt 25) - This judgement will be for the survivors of the Tribulation period (Rev 6-19), and will determine which of them will be allowed to enter the Kingdom Age of the Millennium, for 1,000 years.
 - **For the SINNERS** (Before the New Earth - Rev 20) - This judgement will be for all the unrighteous dead of human history.

They will stand before Christ the Judge, and be found guilty for rejecting His free gift of love, mercy, and forgiveness.

III. Fact #3: Everyone Will *LIVE FOREVER*. - *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to **the resurrection** of life, and those who have done evil, to **the resurrection** of condemnation."*

- *Rutgers University in New Jersey decided to host a unique class in their college. It was called "Death and the Afterlife". What kind of interest do you think they would have in a class called "Death and the Afterlife"? Well they were surprised because they had to cap it off at 100 when 400 people almost immediately signed up to find out what happens after death. 400 people immediately, first semester, but they had to limit it to 100.*
- Everyone Rises from the grave!! - 1000 years between these 2 Resurrections (Rev 20:4-15)
- **"The Resurrection of LIFE"** - For *believers* only
 - WHY?? Our future environment demands it!
 - **1 Cor 15:50-55 NLT** - *"..our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?""*
- **"The Resurrection of CONDEMNATION"** - For *unbelievers* only
 - WHY?? Their future environment demands it!
 - **Revelation 20:11-15 NLT**- *"And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its*

dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

- CS LEWIS, wrote a world famous series of 7 books entitled THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA. Toward the end of the final book, “The Last Battle”, the Lion-King ‘Aslan’, representing Christ, tells Peter, Edmund, and Lucy that there has been a railroad accident... and that they have all died.
 - *The book ends like this: "And as Aslan spoke, He no longer looked to them like a lion but the things that began to happen after that were so great, so beautiful, that I cannot even write about them. and for us this is the end of the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after, but for them it was only the beginning of the real story. Their life in this world, all of their adventures in Narnia, had only been the cover and the title page. Now at last they were beginning chapter one of the great story, which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever and ever, in which every chapter is better than the one before."*