

Eternity part 2, 4/16/23

Minimum requirements to get there?

What if salvation is not mostly about getting us into eternity but about getting eternity into us?

The eternal life that Jesus taught, is an understanding that announces that everlasting life under God's reign is available today. Through His death and resurrection, which conquered death and enables us to live in eternity, not somewhere up there, or just after we die, but something that we can start living in immediately!

Minimum requirements

Are there minimum requirements for getting into eternity?

Why is this important?

When you define salvation as simply a prayer that gets you into eternity, (minimum requirement) it reduces the gospel to the point where for the insider, little of no change is required, and for the outsider it keeps people from coming in.

The primary synonym for salvation in the New Testament is Life:

John 10:10

1 John 5:12

Ephesians 2:4-5

Throughout the New Testament, the terms salvation, eternal life, and Kingdom of God all speak to this reality that we are privileged to enter into by becoming followers of Jesus.

Mark 10: 17-27

To have eternal life is to "enter and live in" the Kingdom of God is to be saved!

He tells the man to "dethrone" your money and "enthroned" Jesus (king Jesus) not to earn forgiveness but to live in the reality of the Kingdom of God, (eternal life/salvation) where soul felt generosity is a kingdom value.

To have eternal life is to "enter into" and "living in" the Kingdom of God is to be saved!

"Salvation is not just about getting you to heaven; it's about getting more of heaven into you!"

Maybe it's not all about relocating as it is about deep soul transformation! It is not about what God wants to do "to" you, it's more about what God wants to do "in" you!

Matthew 7:24

Do we think we don't have to worry about actually doing anything Jesus says--as long as we believe His death pays for our sins?!

"Eternity with Christ is not an idea to be understood, but a reality to be lived in, through faith, if union is the ultimate goal in our life with Christ, and it is, that would include asking him to take over my life."
John Ortberg, *Eternity is in Session*

In our world, it continues to be obvious that there is something terribly wrong in the world and cries out to be put right...

But it is not just the world...

If we are honest with ourselves, which is not easy (ego), there is something terribly wrong with me...

"Whatever else that men have believed, they all believed that there is something the matter with mankind." GK Chesterton.

"If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being." Aleksander Solzhenitsyn

We need the eternal life of Jesus to be saved inwardly from our anger, racism, greed, arrogance, pride, ego, addictions, etc... If our inner person is not transformed, our outer location might not matter much...

Jesus told us to make disciples, but if we reduce salvation as just getting to eternity, we are proclaiming an eternal life that is actually disconnected to becoming a disciple of Christ.

Tragic result: Millions of people who live needlessly untouched and unchanged by the presence of God.

How are you deeply changing in your soul to become more like Jesus lately?

When you define salvation as simply a prayer that gets you into eternity, (minimum requirement) it reduces the gospel to the point where for the insider, little or no change is required, and for the outsider it keeps people from coming in.