



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Eternity: What Does the Bible Say About Death?

Passage: Hebrews 9:27-28

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Over the years, a deeply troubling pattern has emerged: some of the most confusing and contradictory preaching often takes place at funerals. In the very moments when people are most in need of hope, truth, and clarity, they're instead met with vague ideas, mixed messages, and even unbiblical claims. If the voices behind the pulpit seem uncertain about eternity, how much more confused must the world be? The truth is, what is believed about life after death directly shapes how life is lived today. Eternity isn't a distant thought for someday—it's a certain reality for everyone. Eternity is far too important to leave to speculation.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

I. Misconceptions About Death

- A. Some believe that death is the end of existence.

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7)

The word "soul" implies ongoing, conscious existence. We are more than flesh and bone. We are spiritual beings with eternal destinies.



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- B. Some say we are reincarnated after death.

One life. One death. One judgment. That's the biblical record.

- C. Some think they'll "get right" before they die—or get a second chance after.

Death usually comes unannounced—sometimes after a long life, but other times in the blink of an eye.

Now is the day of salvation. The only opportunity to get right with God is in this life.

II. Biblical Absolutes About Death

- A. Death is a certainty.

Nobody escapes death. Nobody avoids it. Everyone has an appointment they will not be late for.

- B. Death is no respecter of persons.

Death doesn't check your net worth, your social status, or your age. It knocks at the doors of the wealthy and the poor, the strong and the weak, the old and—tragically—the young.

- C. Death is permanent.

Death is final. There is no return.

- D. Judgment is a reality.

There are Two Judgments:

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ - for Believers



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"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

In this judgment, God will assess our service, our faithfulness, our stewardship.

2. The Great White Throne Judgment - for Unbelievers

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened..." (Revelation 20:12)

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15)

Once you arrive at this judgment day—it's too late to change your eternity.

E. Salvation is Available.

Christ's death was sufficient for all—every man, woman, and child—but it is only effective for those who believe.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

1. You must recognize your need.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

2. You must understand what Christ did for you.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)



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"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

3. You must believe and call upon Him.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

4. You must receive Him personally.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)

Conclusion: In moments of loss, the truth about eternity matters more than ever. Death is not the end, but a doorway to a forever reality—one that each of us must face. The Bible leaves no room for doubt or delay: there is one life, one death, and one opportunity to be made right with God. Through Jesus Christ, the hope of eternal life is not a vague idea, but a certain promise for all who believe. Don't wait. Eternity is too important to leave to chance.

