

Leadership Acknowledgement:

Your leadership, and life group, is appreciated, and so important to the body of the church.

"If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

ETERNITY -- REACTION**STARTER QUESTIONS:**

When you consider how close we may be to judgement day, what are some concerns you have? What would you change about your lifestyle, if you knew the date of judgement?

Do you like to think about eternity? Why or why not?

MAIN IDEA:

On Sunday, during our series titled, "Eternity," Pastor Hank spoke about the "7 Absolutely Critical Things to Know about Eternity." Our study this week will discuss the seven key points Hank went over during this service. He said, "When you read the bible, it's a little confusing until you understand that there are going to be two judgements in eternity. There's one judgement for people destined for hell. And there's one judgement for those destined for heaven."

KEY VERSE:

"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."
Revelation 1:3 (NIV)

Pastor Hank addressed seven critical things to know about eternity:

1. We're getting close.

Read the key verse above, and ask yourselves, how can I improve the time I have left? Is there a way that you can help improve the time that others have left?

2. The bible talks a lot about judgement.

“The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
Matthew 13:49-50 (NIV)

“Many will be cast into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
Matthew 8:12 (NLT)

When confronted with doubt, about the realities of heaven, hell, and judgement, what are ways you can respond, in hopes to bring those doubters closer to Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven?

3. Standing before God will be a terrible thing.

“We will all stand before God’s judgement seat... So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
Romans 14:10-12 (NIV)

Think for a moment, about the “account” of yourself that you will give to God. What will you open with? A story of your accomplishments? A plea for forgiveness?

4. Many people will be shocked on Judgement Day.

“When the Judgement Day comes, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord! In Your name, we spoke God’s message, by Your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!’ Then I will say to them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!’”
Matthew 7:22-23 (TEV)

Did Hank’s hypothetical story about the drug trafficker from Holland put things into perspective for you? For those unfamiliar with the story, please read this aloud:

“I recently read this hypothetical story: guy from Holland, where legal to smoke marijuana... flies to Singapore (caught with certain drugs, severely punished or even executed by hanging... entry card: “Death to Drug Traffickers...”) but let’s say he missed the warning. Starts sharing his stuff – police come, arrest him, throw him in jail, goes before judge: “Your honor – where I come from it’s fine to share marijuana with your friends...” “You’re not in Holland, you’re in Singapore – In this nation, guilty drug traffickers are executed.” Now imagine the shock of this young Dutchman – confidence gone – no ground to stand on – terrible feeling of doom overwhelms him.”

5. There will be 2 judgements.

Have someone find, and read aloud, Rev. 20:11-15 and II Corin. 5:10 (BEMA).

Hank said, "There is another judgement that, as a believer, you will go through. That's the judgement for rewards... You will be rewarded for your actions that were good. You will be rewarded for your words that were good. You will be rewarded for your thoughts that were good. You will be rewarded for your character and your decisions that were good. You will be rewarded for your prayers. You will be rewarded for your generosity. You will be rewarded for your service; you will be rewarded for your sacrifices. You will be rewarded in your persistence in not giving up... you will be rewarded for bringing other people to church, helping them to find Jesus Christ."

6. Most people don't like thinking about eternity.

Judgement brings strong feelings of fear for some people. Why do you think that is? How can those feelings of fear be lessened?

7. You can stop worrying about eternity today.

"I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know with settled and absolute knowledge, that you already have life, yes, eternal life!"
1 John 5:13 (Amp)

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:9 (NIV)

If you were feeling scared or anxious about eternity before, do the scriptures above help settle those feelings? Can you think of any other scriptures that may bring peace to those who are still fearful about eternity?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Read aloud:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this is not from yourselves, this is the gift from God."
Ephesians 2:8

"If someone dies, will they live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. You will call and I will answer You; You will long for the creature Your hands have made."
Job 14:14-15

How can our group pray for you?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Additional Scriptures about Eternity in the Bible: Psalm 39: 1-7, Proverbs 11:30-34, Matthew 7:13-14, John 5:29

ETERNITY
"Reaction"
March 25, 2018

7 Absolutely Critical Things to know about Eternity:

1. We're getting close.

"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."
Revelation 1:3 (NIV)

2. The Bible talks a lot about judgment.

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"
Matthew 23:33 (NIV)

"Many... will be cast into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 8:12 (NLT)

"The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
Matthew 13:49-50 (NIV)

3. Standing before God will be a terrible thing.

"We will all stand before God's judgment seat. ...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:10-12 (NIV)

4. Many people will be shocked on Judgment Day.

"When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!' Then I will say to them, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!'" Matthew 7:22-23 (TEV)

5. There will be 2 judgments.

- Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
- Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)

“If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.” Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

6. Most people don't like thinking about eternity.

“As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” Acts 24:25 (NIV)

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