

Coming Soon

The beginning of forever (part 3)

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. “Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Smelling salts... salt and light.

Often we look through God’s Word into the path of life that we may know how to make decisions that honor and align with the will of God, how to find peace in the storms of life, how to battle against temptation and darkness. Today, I want to look not through the Bible at the path of life but in the Bible at the final destination.

- The Destination
- The Difference
- The Decision

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Today I do not want to put before you an easy path... but I do want to put before you THE path. Only one way to forgiveness and everlasting life.

Heaven

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

AND GOD HAS PUT ETERNITY IN THEIR HEART

Renewed Worship

You won’t be able NOT to sing. It will erupt out of you.

If you have ever been to the Grand Canyon, on Top of a mountain... WOW!!!

- Revelation 4:3-6 & 8
- Revelation 5:9-12

New Home

John 14:2-3 “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- **Matthew 5...** great is your reward for enduring persecution
- **1 Corinthians 3...** your rewards will be made clear

You don’t enjoy Christmas solely for the presents, but it’s ok to look forward to them. We don’t do what we do for the reward but we can look forward to them.

New Bodies

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

New Joy

Revelation 21:3-4 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:23-27

New Adventures

New Heavens and a New Earth *Rev. 21:1 I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven the first earth had passed away.*

Never Ending (King and relatives)

No marriage in heaven

1 Thessalonians 4:17 And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Hard now but heavenly then.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Loosed from your sin nature. It's not that you won't sin, you won't even be tempted to sin. You won't have to *wrestle jealousy, calm anger, war against lust, soften your mind against being judgmental, discern the lies of depression and loneliness, bridle anxiety...* **TRULY FREE.**

C.T. Studd Only One Life

Only one life, yes only one,
Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call,
I know I'll say "twas worth it all";

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Hell

Talked about more than any other topic

Excruciating & Eternal

2 Thessalonians 1:5-9 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Matthew 25:46 “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Excruciating

Revelation 21:7-8 “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the **second death**.”

After the hand and eye passage

Mark 9:48 “where ‘Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’

Explain weeping and gnashing of teeth

Matthew 13:49-51 “So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, “and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” **Jesus said to them**, “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

He who has ears to hear, let him hear! (Similar teaching just a few sentences earlier.)

Tribulation Torment

Revelation 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; AND they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

Looking at Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities who went after sexual immorality

Jude 1:7 ... suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Created for the devil and fallen angels

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

It is not what God wants for you, it is not where God wants you.

Satan – self seeking, self focused, self desiring. The angels that fell, went their own way vs. God’s way. Your call... your way or God’s way. There are two paths but make no mistake, they lead to two different destinations.

Is real and eternal... purgatory is an unbiblical idea

- You are not saved by works
- You are saved from wrath... not through it.

IN CHARGE

The Devil is not in charge and you will not be partying with your friends.

ALL IT TAKES

All it takes is to think, I can go on without God. I can do my life my way. THAT IS ALL IT TAKES.

TOO HARSH?

If hell seems too harsh, it is because your view of God is not high enough, holiness is not clear enough, and sin is too small.

Book of Life

(The moment you put your faith in Christ, your name is eternally written in the Book of Life.)

Revelation 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire

Luke 10:20 “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

TO THE CHURCH

If you saw someone on fire, would you do anything to help them?

- I'm not a firefighter.
- I didn't study fire science in college
- I don't have my certificate as a department volunteer

I doubt we will be proud of those we did not witness to.
We are all called to the great commission, one way or another.

The Destination

The Difference - JESUS

The Difference is Jesus

1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Grace – Heaven is a free gift

Good works will be rewarded but can't do anything to get you out of hell

Man – Is a sinner, he cannot save himself

God – Is merciful and does not WANT to punish sin, but is also just and MUST punish sin.

Christ – 100% God and 100% Man, the propitiation
The only acceptable substitute.

Not to shame you but to wake you... Eternity is on the horizon and it's coming soon.

Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Not looking through the Word at life but into the Word at eternity.

(we struggle differently, sorrow differently, stuck down, not destroyed.)

It's narrow and upstream... against a sin nature and a world fallen to sin. But the power and peace of God filling you hour by hour as you walk toward your everlasting home in the presence of God... rather than forever sorrow in hell, it's no more sorrow but everlasting joy – restored and with the Lord.

The Destination

The Difference

The Decision

Matthew 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

(IS THE LIGHT ON? HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD ALL THESE THINGS?)