

“WILL I SEE YOU IN THE AFTER LIFE?”

The Most certain thing in this Life is our DEATH

Many joke about it. Most say they are NOT afraid of it.

Comedian Woody Allen - perhaps best sums up the way many feel about it. He says - “I’m not afraid to die; I just don’t want to be there when it happens.”

3 Main Reasons Why I Believe in an afterlife...

1. REASON DEMANDS IT...

My Grandmother was 12 years old when she was with her 4 year old sister when she died. She tells how her sister sat bolt upright with outstretched hands and a beautiful smile on her face as though someone was beckoning her and then she fell back and passed away.

Dr Von Braun President of National Space Institute said in 1975 “Science has a real surprise for the sceptics. Science tells us that nothing in nature can disappear without a trace.” Think about that for a moment and he says, once you do, your thoughts about life will never be the same again. Nature does not know Extinction - All nature knows is transformation.

If God applies this fundamental Principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of His universe, doesn’t it make sense to assume that He applies it also to the Masterpiece of His creation, the Human Soul?

Dr Von Braun says, “everything science has taught me - and continues to teach me strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace”

2. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?

Hebrews 10:27, 28 It is appointed unto man once to die and after death the Judgement.

Acts 17:30-31 God now commands all men everywhere to repent - because he has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He has ordained, Christ Jesus. Whereof He has given assurance unto all men in that He has raised Him from the dead.

God’s Assurance of Life After Death and the Judgment is the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Socrates was once asked by his followers “if we die - shall we live again?” (He said, ‘I hope so’.)

Early Christians – Knew so - Transformed by the Resurrected Christ. Martyrs died laughing. Death held no terrors for them. They knew life after death - something better in the Lord Jesus Christ.

My father tells the story of when he met a sceptic – I quote from Dad’s book – The sceptic said “I Believe Death Ends All”. ‘So do I’, Dad said. ‘I never expected you to agree with me’ said unbeliever. ‘Well’, Dad said, ‘for you Death Ends All – all your joy, all your ambitions, all your friendships, all your opportunities to do good and be helpful, all your chances of hearing and responding to the Gospel. You go out into a Christless Eternity. Where as For Me, Death ends all my Tears, perplexities, heartaches and trials, all my aches and pains. I will be with the Lord Jesus where time has no further reference. I will rejoice in the Presence of my Saviour and I will enjoy the fullness of abundant Life.’

This is the hope that sustains us as a family today...

The Bible speaks of an Inward Man and an Outward Man Gods sees the Outward Man as dust – something temporary...

Man is Dust but, man is more than dust. God breathed into that dust the spirit of life and he became a living soul.

His life in the flesh - is in the blood. To lose your blood is to lose your life in flesh. But, This is not all of man - man is also spirit. Life of the Spirit is in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - "Outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly, we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us our Eternal Glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen (i.e. Spirit) is eternal."

Our bodies are temporary - Our spirits are eternal.

Sometimes I’m sure we make mistakes. We say, we hear with ears, we see with eyes, we think with brains. In a sense that's right! BUT, also wrong. A Dead Body has a - brain, no thoughts; eyes - no sight; ears - no hearing and a mouth - but no speech! Why? The Real Man, who is the Inward person, has left the Body!The Body is useless without the inner person. The eternal spirit that - thinks – feels - wills. The body is not the important thing. The body without the spirit is dead. It is the instrument of the real person.

Jesus said "Fear not he who is able to destroy the Body, but rather he who is able to destroy body & soul in Hell"

Now - The spirit leaving the body goes into the presence of the Lord to await the resurrection day and judgement of God. This life is but a preparation for Eternity

The Bible says, After death it is Heaven or Hell

Confirming this thought Dr Maurice Rawlings... An expert in field of Resuscitation has brought many clinically dead people back to life and listened to their stories of what happened to them after death. He says in his book, *Beyond Death's Door* – that his investigations have convinced him that there is another life beyond the grave and not all of it is good. Several have spoken of a great lake of fire horrible to behold and also a great light gentle and kind. He tells how he was resuscitating a patient who had collapsed and he had the surprise of his life when the patient began to come to, he was terrified. "Don't Stop" he said. "I'm in Hell, each time you quit I go back to Hell - pray for me." Dr Rawlings tells how it changed him from a nominal Christian to become a committed Christian. He says of those who have briefly visited the other world, a clear pattern emerges of either a journey into light, beauty, love or a journey into darkness, unhappiness and even for some a lake of fire.

There is a Hell to be shunned and a Heaven to be gained.

Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. Hell is a prepared place for unprepared people.

Matthew 25:41 "Then shall He say to them on His left hand, depart from, you cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels."

Hell - Not prepared for man but the devil - we qualify by continual rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ in favour of Satan and his way of life. Is Hell Literal Fire? - Surely it's only figurative? Maybe - but if the figurative is so revolting - what must it represent?

You see death is one appointment all must keep.

3. COMMON DECENCY DEMANDS THAT JUSTICE BE DONE...

John 3:36 "He that believes in Jesus is NOT condemned, but he who believes NOT is condemned already because he believes not in the name of the only begotten Son of God"

How does belief in Jesus release us from condemnation? Because God is Just. He will never demand double payment for sin

2 Corinthians 5:21 He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we may be made the righteousness of God.

Isaiah 53:5 He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him. With His stripes we are healed.

Have you appropriated for yourself all that Jesus did for you on Cross? Have you ever said, Thank you Lord and declared yourself to follow Him

Louis Delacour during the 1st World War obtained leave to see his sick mother and then deserted the French Army. His nerve failed him and he spent the next 21 years in hiding. In 1937, his mother died. Pale and dishevelled he walked to the nearest police station and gave himself up. The police heard his story, then, laughed at him, for a law pardoning wartime deserters had been passed years before, but he had failed to accept it then, ignorant of it.

That story is pathetic, but not nearly as pathetic as those who refuse to accept the pardon God wants to give them through His Son. Have you received Jesus as your Sin Bearer and Saviour, or are you still rejecting Him?

God will deal with us in Eternity in exactly the same way as we deal with Him today. Own Him as your Saviour and He will own you as His, in Eternity.

Reject Him and He will reject you. That's fair enough isn't it?

**Will I see you in the afterlife? That is only a question you can answer!
For the reasons I have outlined I do believe in the afterlife...**

Stand up for Him today, while you have the time and opportunity. Tell someone of your decision. Repent of your ways and be obedient to the Lord Follow Him in obedience to Christ through the waters of Christian Baptism