

Is There a Future Hope? (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

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Tyler Lynde



DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE AFTERLIFE:

1. _____: Eternity is spent in Heaven or Paradise with God, in a state that is beautiful beyond our ability to conceive.
2. _____: Eternity is spent in Hell with Satan and his demons. All are tormented and tortured, in isolation from God, without any hope of mercy or relief.
3. _____: If the person dies in a state of grace, but loves God "imperfectly," then their souls immediately enter Purgatory. Here, they suffer for a time in order to cleanse themselves of their accumulated imperfections, sins and faults.
4. _____: One's spirit, memory, personality, awareness, body, and mind disappear and are no more.
5. _____: Our soul and spirit are reborn into another living entity - not necessarily human.

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT THE END OF DAYS:

1. Jesus will _____ to the earth (*The Second Coming*)
2. We will be _____ (*Glorification-Rom. 8:18-25, 1 Co. 15:51-57*)
3. There will be a day of _____ (*The Final Judgment-Rev. 20:11-15*)
4. All things will be made _____ (*Rev. 21:1-5*)

The consummation is the uniting of all things in heaven and earth in Christ and will occur at the appearing of the Lord Jesus (the Second Coming). When he comes, all true believers will be raised and glorified, both dead and living. Glorification is the final stage in human salvation when our lowly bodies are transformed into the body of his glory. Even creation, which was subjected to decay and futility, will be transformed at the appearing of our Lord. At his coming, Satan and all his hosts, along with all those who disobey, will be separated from the presence of Christ and endure eternal punishment, whereby the righteous, with new bodies, will live and reign with him forever, serving Him and giving Him unending praise. Then shall the earth and all created things give Him the glory who makes all things new.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: For House Churches, Triads, and Family Devo's

1. Which views of the afterlife are Biblical and which are not? Have you ever believed a false view? Which one?
2. What happens to a believer when they die? How can we comfort each other with these truths?
3. What action should the reality of the final judgment inspire us to? If it's not, why not?

EQUIPPED 2 ENGAGE: The Romans Road

Step 1 - Everyone needs salvation because all have sinned.

Romans 3:10-12, and 23

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." ...For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (NLT)

Step 2 - The price (or consequence) of sin is death.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)

Step 3 - Jesus Christ died for our sins. He paid the price for our death.

Romans 5:8

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (NLT)

Step 4 - We receive salvation and eternal life by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-10, and 13

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved ... For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (NLT)

Step 5 - Salvation through Jesus Christ brings us into a relationship of peace with God.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. (NLT)

Romans 8:1

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. (NLT)

Romans 8:38-39

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)

RESPONDING TO ROMANS ROAD

- Admit you are a sinner.
- Understand that as a sinner, you deserve death.
- Believe Jesus Christ died on the cross to save you from sin and death.
- Repent by turning from your old life of sin to a new life in Christ.

- Receive, through faith in Jesus Christ, his free gift of salvation.