

Faith Christian Fellowship
November 15, 2015
Strong Foundations: Eternity

In life, the more complicated things get the less effective at taking care of them I seem to become. This is true when it comes to Spiritual things as well. We need to keep things simple when it comes to the Lord.

CAUSE' the more complicated we make it the less effective we'll be there too. Our calling NEVER changes we are to 1. Love God, 2. Love People, 3. Preach the Truth. Keeping it simple helps.

With that said we are going to talk about a very controversial topic. Eternity.... People have all kinds of views about eternity, the end of the world, Christ's coming... and there are many debatable issues, but there are a few things that the Bible is clear on and must be understood in order to give a proper witness of our faith. So let's begin by looking at.

What happens to us when we die?

✎ There are wrong ideas around the world and in the Church. It is important to be able to refute them if asked.

- ⊖ **Falsehood #1: "When a person dies, they go caput and cease to exist. There is no after life."** Most unbelievers don't even believe this. Psychics, near-death research, false religions, are all determined to find some answer to the question. Their hearts tell them there is more. Every person will live forever. Luke 16:22-23
- ⊖ **Falsehood #2: "God is good and would never send anyone to Hell, so everyone will be saved in the end."** This is called "Universal Salvation" or "Ultimate reconciliation." God is a good God, but He is also a **just** God. It is absurd to think that all will receive the same eternal reward regardless of their life on the earth. Hell was created for Satan and his angels, but those who insist on serving Satan here will be condemned to spend eternity with him as well. Matthew 25:41
- ⊖ **Falsehood #3: "There is a reward for the righteous, but the wicked will just cease to exist."** Some believe that the referenced to Hell in the Bible are figurative—"We make our own Hell here on earth." Others believe Hell exists but it is not eternal. You'll burn up and that is it. Rev 20:10 Hell is a torment that lasts forever.
- ⊖ **Falsehood #4: "Hell is just a place full of people like me."** It won't be that bad. This isn't Bible description of Hell. Luke 16:23
- ⊖ **Falsehood #5: "We get a second chance."** Some believe in re-incarnation or some sort of purgatory or sub-heaven where a person gets a chance to either do penance or try again at life. Bible says there is no second chance. Hebrews 9:27

✎ **The Bible is very clear about what happens when people die.**

- ◆ Physical death is not the end of life. It is the end of the animated existence of the physical body. James 2:26 **Death is never the cessation of existence.**
 - ☺ At the moment of physical death, the spirit and soul of the **CHRISTIAN** go immediately to the presence of the Lord. 2 Cor 5:8 / Phil 1:23
 - ☹ At the moment of physical death, the **unbeliever** descends into **Hades**. Luke 16:19-31
- Both paradise and Hades were under the earth. 2 Peter 2:4 tells us of at least one more compartment called Tartarus
 - V23 Hades (Sheol) under the earth-- Gehenna is another word translated "Hell" Matthew 18:9 / Luke 12:5-- At the resurrection of Jesus, Paradise "Abraham's bosom" was moved into heaven. Luke 23:43 / Ephesians 4:8 / 2 Cor 12:2-4
 - The rich man went to **Hades**—he could see Paradise, he could feel the torment of fire, he felt remorse and realized missed opportunities, he saw relief but could never get it.
 - Bible indicates levels in **He11**. Psalm 86:13 / Mat 23:14

✎ **There is an eternity for both believer and unbeliever**

- ◆ Unbeliever will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. After the 7 year Tribulation comes 1,000 years of peace on the earth then a final judgement Rev 20:1-15
- ◆ The **believer** has a much better eternity.
 - ✎ Just before the 7 year tribulation period, those alive on the earth will experience a physical change and be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. 1Thes 4:13-18 / 1 Cor 15:51-52 / Rev 4:1 / 2 Cor 5:4
 - ✎ While tribulation fills the earth we will receive rewards from Jesus and partake of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Rev 19:1-10 / 2 Cor 5:9-11 / 1 Cor 3:11-15
 - ✎ We will return with Christ after tribulation and rule with Him for 1,000 years. Rev 19:11-20, 20:4-6
 - ✎ After 1,000 years, the earth will be renovated by fire and Heaven will descend to earth. We will then live eternally in the presence of the Lord. Rev 21 & 22

You will live forever with your Lord.
The question is, "Who is your Lord?"
The answer makes all the difference.

Jesus is Alive, and He's coming back soon!