

Eternal Life or Eternal Death!!

[S1]

-Which Will it Be For YOU? –

** Remember to Send up a Prayer for Wisdom Before You Begin*

INTRODUCTION: To get a little perspective on the immense, mind-staggering implications of eternity whether it be eternal life in all its unspeakable happiness and bliss or the terrifying prospect of eternal death from which life is extinct and will never be possible again, we need to use an illustration of what never-ending eternity can be likened to. Even this illustration probably falls feebly short. But here it is: Let's take a medium sized hummingbird that is immortal and will never die. These unusual little birds have a way of traveling quite fast with a speed of up to 60 mph. For the sake of illustration, let's use a hummingbird that will never die and will travel 60 mph consistently and can carry a teaspoon in its bill. This little hummer is given the task of picking up one teaspoon of sea water starting at the Pacific Ocean then flying all the way to the moon to dump off its seawater then fly back to do the same thing over again –one teaspoon at a time!! There are 768 teaspoons in a gallon. There are over 326 million trillion gallons of water in this world's bodies of water. Keep in mind that our moon is almost a quarter of a million miles away (approx. 238,900 miles to be more exact) and this probably varies as it revolves around our earth. A round trip to the moon and back is under to a half million miles or probably less or approx. 332 days traveling at this speed. When all the oceans of the world are emptied dry –ETERNITY will have just begun!!

1.) Is this life the only opportunity we have to choose God, His ways and His salvation which means eternal life? Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is _____ unto men _____ to die, but _____ this the judgment: Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, _____ and _____, stand before God; and the _____ were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the _____ were _____ out of those things which were written in the books, _____ to their works. 2Corinthians 5:10 For we must _____ appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may _____ the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or _____.*
NOTE: The first verse is very plain that this life is the only one we've got. If you mess this one up, it's just too bad!! But even if you are much older and you aren't proud of your past life, you can now make up for that by surrendering your life to Jesus and asking for His forgiveness, and anything you need to make right with fellow humans.

2.) How fragile and fleeting is the life of each human being who is born into this world of sin? Psalm 103:15 *As for man, his _____ are _____ grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. 16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is _____; and the place thereof shall know it _____ more. James 4:14 Whereas ye know _____ what shall be on the morrow. For what is your _____? It is even a _____, that appeareth for a _____ time, and then vanisheth away. NOTE: If we are really blessed and fortunate, we can live anywhere from*

70 – 90+ years in this life. But a fair number of people’s lives END even long before this! There is NO GUARANTEE how long we have in this world because illness, disease, accidents or any number of things could end our life. And many elderly folks will tell you that when you get up into your 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s that life went by fast and is short! It then comes to an end, -then what?? What is even 90 measly years compared to a million or even trillions of years?! Eventually every person must face ETERNAL REALITIES!

- 3.) What does the Word of God counsel us to do when we realize the shortness and vulnerability of our own life? Psalm 90:12 So teach us to _____ our days, that we may _____ our hearts unto wisdom. Psalm 39:4 LORD, make me to know mine _____, and the _____ of my days, what it is; that I may know how _____ I am.
- 4.) Many people when they get to the end of their long life, have horrible regrets at what they have done in their past life and what they failed to do when it was their privilege to make good choices! What simple counsel does the Bible give to avoid this terrible remorse? Colossians 3:2 Set your _____ on things _____, not on things on the earth. Proverbs 23:26 My son, _____ me thine _____, and let thine eyes _____ my ways.
- 5.) Do we really advantage and benefit ourselves when we choose our own will and way? Proverbs 8:35 For whoso findeth _____ findeth _____, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. 36 But he that _____ against me wrongeth his _____ soul: all they that hate _____ love _____.
- 6.) There is so much to distract us or lure us away from the path to eternal life. How does the Bible warn us of the eternal realities that we face? Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall _____ the whole world, and _____ his own _____? 37 Or what shall a man give in _____ for his soul?
- 7.) How does the Bible contrast the reaction of the righteous to when Jesus returns at the end of the world versus the reaction of the lost? Isaiah 25:9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is _____ God; we have _____ for him, and he will _____ us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be _____ and _____ in his salvation. Revelation 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, _____ themselves in the _____ and in the _____ of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, _____ on us, and _____ us from the _____ of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his _____ is come; and who shall be able to _____? **NOTE: There are going to be ONLY two groups of people when this world ends! Which group are you going to be in? One group is going to be excited and probably ecstatic that their God and their Savior is coming to take them home for all eternity! These will look forward to an eternal joy and thrill that can’t even**

be comprehended by the most vivid imagination! The other group is going to be terror stricken, filled with unspeakable guilt, and painful gnawing regret at the incredible, blessed experience they could have had by their own choice. What words can even describe the anguish, disappointment and even the stark terror that the lost will go through knowing it is too late and they are eternally barred from everlasting life?! What will it take to motivate us to forsake whatever we need to of this world and fully surrender our hearts and lives to the LORD Jesus –to the God of the universe and thereby secure ETERNAL LIFE?!

- 8.) When the wicked or lost are raised in the 2nd resurrection to face the final executive judgment, how does Jesus describe the agony of the wrong choices they have made? **Matthew 22:13** Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into _____ darkness; there shall be _____ and _____ of teeth. **Luke 13:28** There shall be _____ and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall _____ Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, ___ the kingdom of God, and you yourselves _____ out. **NOTE: Imagine the dire reality of the wicked and lost knowing that for all eternity in the future they will never experience the joys of life again coupled by the fact that they will shortly experience the fire from heaven and the lake of fire in the final punishment of hell. This situation is what the Bible describes as the “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” It will be a time of unspeakable anguish for the lost sinner. The Bible teaches that this fire will devour and burn up sinners until there is nothing left, but the results will be eternal. The Bible says “the wages of sin is death” not eternal life in hell-fire. [See study on “The Good News About Hell Fire”]**
- 9.) How does the Bible describe the oblivion of those who face eternal death? **Jude 1:13** Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the _____ of _____ for ever. **2Peter 2:17** These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of _____ is reserved for _____. **Matthew 25:30** And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer _____: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **NOTE: There is probably no human words to describe eternal oblivion because there would be no conscious passing of time because of no consciousness –so it would be described as nothingness or as the Bible describes it “darkness and blackness.”**
- 10.) On the contrast what do the saved have to thrill in for the reward that will be theirs? **1Corinthians 2:9** But as it is written, _____ hath not seen, nor _____ heard, neither have entered into the _____ of man, the things which God hath _____ for them that love him. **Psalms 16:11** Thou wilt shew me the path of _____: in thy presence is fulness of _____; at thy right hand there are _____ for evermore. **Revelation 21:7** He that overcometh shall _____ all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. **Matthew 13:43** Then shall the righteous _____ forth as the _____ in the kingdom of their Father. **NOTE: As the first verse above says, we can’t even begin to imagine the glorious**

reward of the saved!! It says the faithful over-comer will INHERIT ALL THINGS!! Try and meditate on that one for a while! Unimaginable happiness and pleasures await the redeemed. Our highest ambitions and holy desires can be fulfilled. We can build our wildest dream home and also have a mansion in the holy city -New Jerusalem that Jesus has gone to prepare! No doubt we can even travel and explore the countless galaxies and worlds that adorn the universe. The sky is basically the limit –literally!! The only thing that will limit this is a heart that will not be humble to surrender everything to Jesus in giving our all to Him! The CHOICE lies with YOU!!

11.) What solemn statement does Jesus make regarding the two choices and the two directions we could take? Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and _____ is the way, that leadeth to _____, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and _____ is the way, which leadeth unto _____, and _____ there be that find it. NOTE: The fact is, the path to destruction is a broad easy way and unfortunately the majority will travel this way. The strait narrow way will have few on it because few have any desire to deny self and follow the path of love and unselfishness. But for YOU this doesn't have to be! If the Spirit of God is talking to your heart just now, -respond without any reservations! 2 Corinthians 6:2b behold, _____ is the accepted _____; behold, _____ is the day of salvation. Hebrews 2:3a How shall we escape, if we _____ so great _____; God will give you the strength, the power and grace you need to be victorious in Him! CHOOSE now to accept Him into your life!

12.) What must I do to receive this glorious gift of salvation? Acts 16:30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I _____ to be _____? 31 And they said, _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou _____ be saved, and thy house. Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were _____ in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, _____ shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, _____, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. NOTE: Repentance and genuine sorrow for sin is necessary for conversion and the "Born Again" experience. This means turning away from those things that are wrong and that break God's law. Also, in the above scripture it says "Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Obviously, this is not talking about a mere intellectual-ascent-type of "believe." The book of James says plainly that "the devils believe and they tremble," but that doesn't save them. This is a belief that reaches deep down into the inner depths of the heart of your soul and causes repentance and then produces the fruit of obedience as a changed and transformed life. Let's look at the simple steps of accepting this gospel and inviting Jesus into our heart and life.

13.) A] Eternal life is a free gift; you can't earn it. Ephesians 2:8 For by _____ are ye saved through _____; and that _____ of yourselves: it is the _____ of God: 9 Not of

works, lest any man should _____.

B] We don't deserve eternal life because we're sinners who deserve to die. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is _____; but the gift of God is eternal _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Romans 3:23** For _____ have sinned, and come _____ of the glory of God; **1John 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the _____: for sin is the _____ of the law. **NOTE: Sin is transgressing or breaking God's great moral law.**

C] God is merciful and doesn't want anyone to die. That is why He sent His Son Jesus on such an expensive errand to live and die for us, to satisfy the claims of God's broken law. John 3:16 For God _____ loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not _____, but have everlasting life.

D] Jesus was both Divine and human and even though He never sinned, He took our punishment as if He was guilty. 1Peter 2:24 Who his _____ self bare our sins in his own _____ on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should _____ unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were _____. **2Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be _____ for us, who _____ no sin; that we _____ be made the righteousness of God in him.

E] We receive this free gift of eternal life by receiving Jesus. Receiving Jesus means we confess our sins, surrender to His control, and invite Him to come into our hearts, be the LORD of our lives and rule there. John 1:12 But as many as _____ him, to them gave he _____ to become the sons of God, even to them that _____ on his name: **Romans 10:8** But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy _____, and in thy _____: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; **9** That if thou shalt _____ with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine _____ that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be _____. **10** For with the _____ man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth _____ is made unto salvation. **Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we _____ in sin, that grace may abound? **2** God _____. How shall we, that are _____ to sin, live _____ longer therein? **Romans 6:15** What then? shall we _____, because we are not under the _____, but under _____? God forbid.

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My Commitment [The Sinner's Prayer]

Dear LORD Jesus, I recognize I am a sinner and that I deserve to die. I cannot save myself. I cannot be good enough to deserve eternal life in heaven and the earth-made new. I believe You died to pay the price for my sins, so I confess these [be specific] to You and ask You to forgive them. I put my trust in You. I ask You to come into my life right now and accept You as my personal Savior. I surrender my life to Your control and receive You as my LORD and my Master. Help me as I turn from my sins and follow You. I accept Your gift of eternal life. I don't deserve it, but I thank You for it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Signed _____