

You Can Know Where You Will Spend Eternity!

By Geri McGhee



Do you know where you will spend eternity?

Have you ever wondered why it is that people talk about death and eternity so much? Are they correct in believing that upon their death they will either face an eternal torment in the lake of fire or that they can live an everlasting life in God's presence? Whether you have pondered this thought or not, you will recognize that you do believe one of the two listed above. You can either choose your eternal destiny or one will be made for you.

Where do YOU desire to spend YOUR eternity?

If you desire to live an everlasting life in God's presence, continue reading. If you choose otherwise, do nothing. ***You decide...***

YOU MUST ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER

Every person since Adam has been born a sinner and has not lived up to God's standard. Accept that you are a sinner and receive the gift God has to offer!

- *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).*
- *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one (Romans 3:10).*
- *Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?" (Pro. 20:9).*
- *...For in your sight no one living is righteous (Ps. 143:2).*

YOU MUST ACCEPT THAT AS A SINNER, YOU OWE A PENALTY and/or DEBT

This death is described in the Bible as the second death, eternal torment in the lake of fire; also, known as hell. As a sinner, you have a debt to pay or must pay the penalty. You cannot, in and of yourself, pay it (nor are we worthy enough to pay such debt). Without payment of this debt, (of which has already been paid for you) you would spend an eternity in the lake of fire (hell).

- *Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire (hell). This is the second death (Rev. 20:14).*
- *For the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).*
- *The soul who sins shall die (Ezek. 18:4).*

YOU MUST ACCEPT THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS ALREADY PAID YOUR SIN/DEBT

A good way to illustrate this could be likened to you appearing in court before the Great Judge of the universe. You know you are guilty. Just as He is about to pronounce you guilty and sentence you to spend eternity in the lake of fire, Jesus steps up from the back of the courtroom and says, "Judge, do not penalize him! I will take his place; he does not have to pay what is owed!" Isn't this wonderful!

- *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6).*
- *...that He (Jesus) by the grace of God should taste death for every man (Hebrews 2:9).*

Jesus Christ was sinless, yet God took all of your sin and placed it upon Him when He was crucified on the cross at Calvary. He was punished in your place in order to pay the debt you owed and paid the debt you could not pay.

- *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*
- *He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:21).*

It is a fact that Jesus Christ already paid the price for your sin--even before you have decided to follow Him!

- *You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men (1 Cor. 7:23).*

YOU MUST ACCEPT BY FAITH WHAT JESUS CHRIST ALREADY DID FOR YOU

In order to believe, you must give yourself (your will) to Jesus. It means to trust and rely on Jesus wholeheartedly.

- *And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31).*
- *He that believes on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him (John 3:36).*

The minute you surrender your life completely to Him, God promises that you are no longer condemned but will have everlasting life. You will never perish unless you turn from Him.

- *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my Word, and believes on Him that sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life (John 5:24).*

Believing in Jesus is not merely giving intellectual assent to the fact you believe Jesus to be the Son of God and the Savior of mankind. It is a heart commitment, desiring to do what is right in the sight of Jesus. Remember that the Bible tells us that even the devil and his demons believe in Jesus and tremble. There must be a defined difference in the way you live, act and believe!

- *You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder (James 2:19).*

YOU MUST FORGIVE ALL WHO HAVE OFFENDED OR HURT YOU

Forgiveness is mandatory. In order for you to be forgiven, you must forgive. Forgiveness is not an emotion, it is a decision. You must decide and choose to forgive. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any person (including yourself) with whom you have held unforgiveness toward or in whom you have negative feelings against.

- *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses (Matt. 6:14-15).*
- *And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in Heaven may also forgive you your trespasses (Mark 11:25).*

YOU MUST REPENT OF YOUR SIN

Repentance means you are turning from anything that displeases God (you turn the opposite direction of). You ask God to reveal to you your sin, you ask for forgiveness of that sin and your aim should be that you not repeat that sin--but instead you live to please God and do His will in your life. Although there may be times that you do fall short, you ask for forgiveness again and continue on, striving to do what is right...

For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin (Eccl. 7:20).

YOU MUST BE WILLING TO DENY YOURSELF AND TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW HIM

To follow Jesus, you must be willing to deny yourself and take up your cross daily and follow Him. Your cross is any where your will crosses God's will. This means that you are entering into a covenant relationship with Jesus, whereby you are making a commitment to Him to be His possession and Holy Bride, and that no other person or thing can have Lordship over you. It means in every given situation, by the grace He supplies, you are willing to choose His way over your way, His attitudes and attributes over your attitude, and His Word over your will.

- *And He (Jesus) was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).*

Salvation is a free gift and is given to you by His grace. We do not obey to be saved--but we obey because we are saved. Obedience is a fruit of salvation.

- *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him (John 3:36).*
- *Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men (John 2:23, 24).*

Jesus only gives Himself to those who come with a yielded and sincere heart.

Are you ready to make a change in your life?

Lastly, but most importantly, if you really want to change the direction of your life and earnestly desire to spend eternity with Jesus, then make a wholehearted commitment to Him!

Begin by praying this prayer:

Dear Father, I come to you in the Name of Jesus, confessing that I am a sinner and have fallen short of Your glory. I know that I do not deserve Your mercy and grace. I owe a debt that I cannot humanly pay for, but Jesus, you paid the debt for me when You died on the Cross at Calvary.

Father, I ask you to forgive me for hurting or offending others, and I forgive all those whom have hurt or offended me. Today, with all my heart I repent and turn from my sin. I am willing (with Your help) to deny myself and take up my cross to follow You.

I now receive You as my personal Savior and the new boss of my life. I invite Your Holy Spirit to come into my life and possess my body to drive out every demonic force, to break the power of sin off of my life, and to give me the power to live for You. I am helpless without You. I trust You to sanctify me and make me holy in Your sight. Amen!

If you have sincerely prayed this prayer, I would love to hear from you!

Email Geri McGhee at:
gerimcghee@sbcglobal.net

STEPS THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR

1. It is important that you find a church that teaches God's Word and preaches repentance. Beware of false prophets and churches that leave out the Word of God, add or take away from the Word of God, and do not teach repentance.
 2. Spend time in the Word of God daily.
 3. Pray each day, spend time with God.
 4. Memorize and meditate on the Word of God daily.
 5. Live a lifestyle of repentance. Earnestly try not to sin, but when you do, confess your sin immediately.
- *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord* (Heb. 12:14)
 - *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.* (1 John 1:9-10)

As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord!



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P.O. Box 1141 Lindale, Texas 75771

(903) 882-1965 or (903) 882-4200

almstaff@sbcglobal.net