

Eternity to Ponder
#499, Week of 3-3-2019

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

Death does not end human existence. We are creatures with bodies and immortal souls. Animals are not like us. They have bodies but do not have eternal souls. Angels are beings that do not have bodies. They are pure spirits. Humans are beings that have both bodies and everlasting souls.

Death is separation of body and soul. Rachel died during childbirth. “It came about as her soul was departing (for she died)...” (Genesis 35:18). In like manner, Jesus Christ also died on the cross. “Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, Into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last” (Luke 23:46).

What happens to the soul after death, after separation from the body? The souls of believers, like that of Jesus, pass immediately into glory. To be “absent from the body” is to be “at home with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8).

On the other hand, there is the alternative. Jesus spoke of a rich man who died and was buried. “In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment” (Luke 16:23).

One of the most popular verses in the Bible gives us the lay of this eternal landscape. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Faith and Life
#500, Week of 3-10-2019

Dr. Dennis Prutow

Lazarus died. His sisters wept. Four days later Jesus arrived. “Your brother will rise again” (John 11:23). Martha knew the hope of eternal life taught in Scripture. “Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day’” (John 11:24).

Jesus pointed Martha to the incarnation and personification of life. “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies’” (John 11:25). A person who enters the state of death, separation of the body and spirit, will return from death. The implication is clear. A time will come when dead bodies and departed souls will be reunited. Does this sound far fetched?

To prove His point, Jesus turned to the tomb of Lazarus and “cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth.’ The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with

wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go’” (John 11:43-44). Pretty impressive lesson.

Jesus adds, “Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 5:26). Literally, He says, “Everyone who lives and believes in Me will not die forever.” Death gives way to life. The big question is simple. “Do you believe this?”

What do You Think?
#501, Week 3-17-2019

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

The basic Christian confession is quite simple. “Jesus is Lord” (Romans 10:9). Jesus Christ is the King and Sovereign the Bible calls us to serve. We must implement His law of love in all of life. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34).

According to the Bible, this confession is no fantasy. Hundreds of years before Jesus walked the dusty trails of Galilee, King David prophesied, “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet’” (Psalm 110:1). Peter interprets the Psalm. “It was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”’ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:34-36).

Hebrews 1:3 declares of Christ, “When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Paul teaches, “He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet” (1 Corinthians 15:25). Jesus therefore asks, “What do you think about the Christ?” (Matthew 22:42).

Heaven
#502, Week of 3-24-2019

by Dennis Prutow

Have you ever wondered about heaven? What is it like? Here is a hint. Hebrews 4:9 declares, “There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.” We thank God this is the case. Heaven is the great and final Sabbath rest.

Calling forward a man with a withered hand, Jesus asked the Pharisees, “Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?” (Mark 3:4). It’s obviously unlawful, immoral, to do harm or to do evil on any day. But what about doing good? What about saving a life? The Pharisees were silent. Jesus’ response was direct.

“After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored” (Mark 3:5). The Pharisees were incensed. They thoroughly misunderstood the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is the preeminent day to do what is good and to heal. The Sabbath foreshadows heaven. “There will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain” (Revelation 20:14).

In this life we may experience healing of soul. In heaven we experience the total healing of our bodies. Imagine, Jesus encourages “waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:23).

But It's Not Fair

#147, Week of 3-31-2019

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

No one likes unjust suffering. It happens a great deal. You get a bad wrap at school or at work. Someone else does not do their share on a project. The boss calls you on the carpet. “It's not fair,” you say. Look at what the Bible says. “It is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong” (1 Peter 3:17). When you suffer for doing something wrong, you should accept it, not grumble and complain, reform, and get on with living.

What about suffering for doing what is right? It is actually far better. You should not do wrong and then have to suffer for it. The example is Christ, “who committed no sin” (1 Peter 2:22). The Romans “spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him” (Matthew 26:67). “After twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him” (Matthew 27:29). Then they nailed him up on a cross (Matthew 27:35). This was all God's will (Acts 2:23).

Think about it. Did Jesus Christ suffer and die to pay for your sins? You should not grumble about petty inconveniences that seem so unjust to you.
