

Countdown to Forever (Pt.1)

Biblical truths regarding the afterlife

*“Enter by the narrow gate; for **wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to eternal life, and there are few who find (choose) it.**” Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV)*

I. Introduction

“They, then, who are destined to die, need not be careful to inquire what death they are to die, but into what place death will usher them.”---Augustine

“Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever, and this must be either true or false. Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only seventy years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever.”---C.S. Lewis

“Satan’s greatest success is in making people think they have plenty of time before they die to consider their eternal welfare.”---John Owen

II. Biblical Facts Concerning Eternity

1. Everyone will spend _____

*“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of **eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began . . .**” Titus 1:1-2 (ESV)*

*“And this is the promise that he made to us—**eternal life.**” I John 2:25 (ESV)*

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

2. Everyone was made _____ God, _____ God

“Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” Psalm 100:1-3 (NLT)

“Paul said, “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for I see your many shrines. One of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To The Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about. “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since He is Lord of heaven and earth, He doesn’t live in man-made temples, and human hands can’t serve His needs, for He has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man (Adam), He created all the nations throughout

the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and He determined their boundaries. **“His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find Him,** though he is not far from any one of us.” Acts 17:22-27 (NLT)

3. Everyone, despite their beliefs, was made to _____
“Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. **He has planted eternity in the human heart,** but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.” Eccl.3:11 (NLT)

“Life, lovely while it lasts, is soon over. Life as we know it, precious and beautiful, ends. The body is put back in the same ground it came from. The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.” Eccl. 12:6-7

4. God created only two _____
“Then the King will say to those **on His right,** ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; **take your inheritance,** the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” Matthew 25:34

“Then he will say to those **on his left,** **‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels**...Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” Matthew 25:41 & 46

5. Everyone must decide what they will do _____
“For God loved the world so much that He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. **And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.**” John 3:16-19 (NLT)

6. We only have the opportunity to choose Jesus _____
“And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. **I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne.** And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged **according to their deeds.** Then death and hell were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And **anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.**” Revelation 20:11-15 (NLT)

III. How Should We Order My Life In Light Of Things Eternal?

1. Realize that you were made for this exact _____
“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. **Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**” Esther 4:14

2. You must learn to accurately _____
“So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12 (NKJV)

ANSWER KEY

II. Biblical Facts Concerning Eternity

1. FOREVER SOMEWHERE
2. BY-----FOR
3. EXIST FOREVER
4. ETERNAL PLACES
5. CONCERNING JESUS
6. THIS SIDE OF ETERNITY

III. How Should We Order My Life In Light Of Things Eternal?

1. MOMENT IN TIME AND HISTORY
2. COUNT YOUR TIME
3. MAKE YOUR TIME COUNT

How?

CHOOSE TO....

LOVE---SERVE---GIVE---SHARE---ENCOURAGE---OBEY---DEVOTE YOURSELF---DISPLAY FAITHFULNESS