

Main Sermon (April 8, 2018)

Resurrection

Part 1: Eternity is all to real

1 Cor 15:19,32 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. ... If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

"Why I Am Not a Christian" (a sad commentary)

"Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving, ... his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs are but the outcome of accidental concoctions of atoms, ... no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling can preserve an individual life beyond the grave, and all the labor of the ages, all the devotion, all of the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system. The whole temple of man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins.

All these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built.

The time has come to review my life as a whole, and to ask whether it has served any useful purpose or has been wholly concerned in futility. Unfortunately, no answer is possible for anyone who does not know the future.

The best way to overcome it (death) - so at least it seems to me - is to make your interests gradually wider and more impersonal, until bit by bit the walls of the ego recede, and your life becomes increasingly merged in the universal life. The man who, in old age, can see his life in this way, will not suffer from the fear of death, since the things he cares for will continue. Any man who cares what the future may have in store therefore has to choose between nothingness and conciliation, not once, but throughout future ages until the sun grows cold." -Bertrand Russell (1872 – 1970)

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

"A time is coming for all men when they will either be born again, or wish they had never been born at all." -Anonymous

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Hopelessness in the unsaved:

"I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty." -Sir Walter Scott (1771 – 1832) Scottish novelist, playwright, & poet

"I am suffering the pangs of the damned." -Charles Talleyrand (1754–1838) French statesman

"What argument is there now to assist me against matters of fact? Do I assert now that there is no hell while I feel one in my own bosom? That there is a God I now know simply because I continually feel the effect of His wrath? That there is a hell I am equally certain of, having received an earnest of my inheritance already in my own breast."

You need not tell me there is no God for I know there is one, and that I am in His presence! You need not tell me there is no hell. I feel myself already slipping. Wretches, cease your idle talk about there being hope for me! I know I am lost forever! Oh, that fire! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell!" - Sir Francis Scott (1620 – 1708) English Infidel Club

“O Christ, O Lord Jesus. I must die abandoned by God and man.” -Voltaire (1694-1778)
Unbeliever, skeptic, anti-Christian author

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
1. A date we must all keep
2. A debt we must all pay
3. A doom we must all avoid

Matthew 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

Romans 2:3,5 And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? ... ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

Romans 5:18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

John 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 11:25-26 “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

“Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go. ... I am not dreaming. I have been within the gates. I have seen the children's faces. ... This is my triumph; this is my coronation day! It is glorious!”
-Dwight L. Moody (1837 – 1899)

Pause stranger as you pass me by, As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be, Prepare to die and follow me.
(To follow you I'm not content, Until I know which way you went.)