



Joe's Rocking
Chair Greetings

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

What is *your* answer? Through the years conversations eventually get around to “What happens when we die?” Perhaps you have heard many different answers to that question. Some believe that after death you just disappear into space. Then there is the belief that we will go to the happy hunting, fishing or golf world. Some say that they hope they were good enough and have done enough good works. Yet there are others who prefer to not discuss this subject. Like the answer you sometimes hear when you ask someone “What church do you attend?” They respond by saying that they don’t discuss that. In fact, I had asked my foot doctor that question and he cut into my toe he got so upset.

Scripture tells us there are two options. The first one is for those who truly believe they are sinners and cannot believe in God on their own. But through repentance and belief in Jesus as their Savior, they will be eternally in Heaven. The fact that we are able to believe and have faith in the Triune God is a free gift from Him!

Option two is the person who doesn’t honor God...rejects Him.

Recently I was reading a commentary written by Pastor Mark Jeske from the People’s Bible. This seems to be a good answer to all of the questions. His words are as follows: Isaiah says in chapter 66 that the flames of hell are never quenched, that the maggots of human decay never die, and that the damned are loathsome to the rest of mankind. Jesus said that what awaits those who reject him is outer darkness, weeping and grinding of teeth. In Revelation 20:10 John says that hell is like a lake of burning sulfur, where Satan and his helpers will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

This is why John writes so earnestly. This is why we need to listen to him. This is why the ministries of your congregation are so important. This is why your family’s spiritual well-being is worth your greatest energy. This is a life or death issue for every person on the planet.

In Heaven there will be no more pain, disappointments, fear, loneliness, or any of the many hurts our sins and the sins of others cause, not to mention the sinfulness that the whole human race inherited from our first parents Adam and Eve, who chose to disobey God.

Just imagine walking the streets of heaven, meeting the Father and knowing His love for you is so great that you can jump into His arms and say “Hello Dad?” What a joy for those who know for sure that heaven will be their home.

It would seem to me that the real question should be “Are you going to allow the Holy Spirit to work faith in you?” This can only happen through the Word and Sacrament.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:17b NIV Bible Gateway.

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