

A Life – From the End to Beginning

importance of accurate models -

maps, scale drawings, schematics, artistic renderings, scale models, displays, aerial photos,
these help us see what will be, what is being done, what we want to have done,
or the get an overall view of what is
these are all of things that we cannot see in actually now
either limited perspective from just current location or whole is not yet complete

but with all, we see in the mind what is important, how things fit

thus when houses are made - they are not made for the frame to look good, but for the whole
and when children are raised it is so they will be good adults - not just tolerable children
so lessons are taught for later – because they *will* need them later
even with something as simple as combing our hair - we have a picture of the completed project in mind,

in all these things we understand how we go thru the intermediate steps to get to the desired end – and that we
need to have the whole operation in mind

with this in mind , Let us draw a model of our lives

I. Heaven or Hell

A. All Present

Ps. 9:16,17 “The LORD has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared.

17 The wicked will return to Sheol [hell], *Even* all the nations who forget God.”

the wicked, many nations, go there

Rev. 20:15 “And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Rev. 21:6-8 “And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

7 He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

all but faithful saints thrown in lake

at this moment everyone has a reservation at of these two ends.

for the sinners - it is fortunate that you can change your reservation

for the saints - we need fidelity, for our name can be blotted out of the book of life

B. Only 2 Choices

Not intermediate - purgatory

or ceasing to exist

others planes of existence

no one can opt out – this is just the way that it is.

II. Judgment Day – Right or Left

A. Jesus Will Judge Everyone

Matt. 25:31-33 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

32 And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.”

B. Word of God the Standard – All Things Subject

Jn. 12:48 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”

2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Matt. 12:36,37 “And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

37 For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.”

III. Death – Prepared or Unprepared

A. Death Certain

Heb. 9:27 “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment”

B. Some Ready, Some Not

2 Tim. 4:6-8 “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Luke 16:19-23 “Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day.

20 And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,

21 and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

22 Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

23 And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and *saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

The rich man had it all – but he made no preparation

his brother were all in the same boat

IV. Life On Earth

A. Life – Righteous or Sinful

Eph. 2:1-3 “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

Col. 3:5-11 “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come,

7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

11 --*a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.”

B. Religious Life – Scriptural or Not

just religion is not enough

Gen. 4:4,5 “And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;

5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.”

Matt. 15:3-9 “And He answered and said to them, “And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”

4 For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, LET HIM BE PUT TO DEATH.'

5 But you say, 'Whoever shall say to *his* father or mother, "Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given *to God*,"

6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And *thus* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

7 You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,

8 THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

9 BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.”

Col. 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

C. Salvation from Sin - Gospel Plan or Man's

were you saved before or even without baptism?

baptism before belief?

what about repentance?

did you know about the Lord's church that the Lord adds to saved to - or only denominations?

Mark 16:16 “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

Acts 2:38 “And Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

D. Common Attitudes

1.) All Religion OK

“as long as you have some kind of religion”

many Catholics and Protestants believe salvation possible outside of Christ

most modern ecumenical movements include Jews, some even Muslims, and a few even pagans

Jewish religion didn't save then or now

Rom. 10:1-3 “Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.”

Religious told to repent

Acts 17:22,30,31 “And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.”

30 “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,

31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

2.) All Denominations OK

“go to the church of your choice”

“salvation is in Christ, not the church”

“all churches that acknowledge Jesus are good”

“we're all going to the same place - just on different roads”

“we all have our own interpretation of the Bible

Bible says you cannot choice how you will serve or what doctrines you will believe

2 Jn. 9 “Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”

Gal. 1:8,9 “But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.”

Matt. 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”

V. Upbringing – Good or Bad

A. Some Given Advantages

Eph. 6:4 “And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Prov. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Prov. 22:15 “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”

B. Some Have Many Obstacles

Prov. 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”

they are not trained - or they are trained wrong

taught wrong values, wrong religion, taught that their is not God

2 Chron. 33:22 “And he did evil in the sight of the LORD as Manasseh his father had done, and Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and he served them.”

C. Personal Responsibility for Own Actions in Either Case

Ezk. 18:4 “Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.”

20 “The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.”

Here we have the whole of life

All needs to be conducted with the final end - judgment and eternal destiny - in mind

Let us look at the things that are eternal -

those things that will be with us for ages without end should have some priority in our lives

Let us close by looking at these things again

What will be present at all of these things?

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My Soul

II. Judgment Day – Right or Left

My Soul & My Bible

III. Death – Prepared or Unprepared

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IV. Life On Earth

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B. Religious Life – Scriptural or Not

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V. Upbringing – Good or Bad

My Parents & Their Bibles

My Soul & My Bible

Ecc1. 12:13,14 “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person.

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”