

The Next Life

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Each one shall be rewarded accordingly (forever). For those who are truly in Christ: There's A Land That's Fairer Than Day. There is a reward: God's Powerful Presence **Uninterrupted**. See and taste your future regularly. Be encouraged.

Unending Years Vs. Sixty Years:

In Matthew 16:26, Jesus said "What will it profit a person if he gains the world and loses his own soul? ..." Through Christ, preserve your soul for the good life yet to come (in its fullness) because this present existence is a miserable one compared to the glories of that good land. But if you live for this world, gain it and enjoy all that it offers, the enjoyment will be for about sixty years. And it will also contain disappointments, pain, sorrow and disease, then you will be taken into that next life of great regrets, pain, and sorrow which will never end. **You may be taken into that next world sooner than you expect.** A wise person will live for Christ now, prepare for the next life now, suffer for Christ in this ungodly world and then will be taken to that place that's more beautiful than day, where he/she will enjoy forever (with no sorrow at all).

Hebrews 11:24-28 "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, **for he looked to the reward.** By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, **for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.** By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them". Hebrews 13:5-6 "Let your conduct be without covetousness, be content with such things as you have. For God Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper, i will not fear. ..."

Encouragement For True Christians:

1Peter 2:20-23 "... when you do good yet suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" 4:19 "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator." Yakob (James) 5:7-8 "Brethren, therefore be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand [near]."

As Jim Elliot began thinking seriously about taking the Good News to indigenous people in South America, his family sought to change his mind so he could remain in the U.S.; at that time (1949) he wrote the following in his journal: **“He is no fool who gives-up what he cannot keep to gain what he can never lose.”**

In this world, we all suffer, no matter how well-placed you may be socio-economically, we all experience disappointments, disease, pain, boredom/emptiness, heart-break, a longing for more (i.e., “Is this all that life has to offer? There has to be more to life than all this my experience”). No matter how well-placed you are in this world, you shouldn’t allow the troubles of this present existence to extend into eternal torments. Indeed it’s a very bad deal to enter into more pain and sorrow in the next life (unending).

In Luke 12:32-34, Jesus said “Do not fear, little flock, it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give to the poor; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a **treasure in the heavens** that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.” For those who truly live for Christ and suffer for Him in this temporary age, the best of this present world cannot be compared with the next life to which they will be taken. It will be far more beautiful and pleasing than the best of this present world. Amazingly, people plan for retirement but usually never give everything (including diligent search) to prepare for the more serious **retirement from this world**.

As a teenager in high school, Christians tried to get me to pray a prayer in which i would promise to live for God and stop sinning. Every time they sought to get me to pray that prayer, i would think to myself: “I can never pray this kind of prayer. I would be lying. I know i’m going to sin again. I am so far from God. How can anyone pray that kind of prayer; we are so far from God and we sin even when we try not to.” Little did i know that my thoughts were in the right direction. Years later (1997), a year after i moved to the U.S., i came to the understanding of God’s commitment to me. I thank God for that adoption at the cross. Oh the joy and relief in understanding that, peace with God isn’t by my human achievement but by God’s work on my behalf. Praise God. Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”

1John 4:10-11 “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us.” Romans 6:14 “Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” True-grace changes a person.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” In Yob 1:20-22, after Job lost everything: “... he fell to the ground and worshiped and said ‘Naked i came from my mother’s womb, and naked i shall return there. The LORD gave, and

the LORD has taken away, blessed be the Name YAH.’ In all this, Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”

Sadly, most people give every effort to being in “good-standing” on this earth rather than being a citizen of Heaven and a stranger on this polluted earth. The future of such people: “their torment ascends forever and ever”. Revelation 14:11-13 “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night ... **Here is the patience of those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.** ... Then i heard a voice from Heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on’. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them **[there’s going to be a reward. Each one shall be rewarded accordingly].**” 13:10“**He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**”

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