

The Brevity of Life

Introduction

- 1. I have conducted several funerals over the years and have also been to a number of cemeteries.**
 - A. Each time I visit a cemetery I am reminded of the “brevity of life” and how certain death is.**
 - 1) Statistics reveal that an average of 107 people die every minute – that equals 153,000 per day!**
 - B. Death comes to the old, young, and everyone in between.**
 - 1) As much as we might like to go on living, all of us will face death.**

What Happens When We Die?

- 1. Does life after death exist? If so, what kind of life?**
- 2. Does heaven exist? Does hell exist?**
 - A. If so, what will happen to us when we die?**
- 3. Here is the question we MUST seriously consider:**
 - A. Will it matter what we believed or how we lived in this life?**
 - 1) Will the answer to those questions affect our eternal destiny?**

4. **Most people believe that the majority of people who die will go to heaven. But Jesus said:**
Matthew 7:13-14
- A. **Few find life – many choose the path to destruction.**
- 1) **Are you among the few or among the many?**
- a) **Are you certain where you will spend eternity?**
5. **Even more sobering is what Jesus said about those who believe in Him as the Savior:**
Matthew 7:21-23
- A. **According to what Jesus said, many religious people will NOT enter heaven.**
- B. **Merely calling upon Jesus as our Savior is clearly not enough to prepare our souls for heaven.**
- 1) **According to the scriptures, we must DO the will of the Father in order to be able to go to heaven.**

Are You Really Saved?

1. **Have you done the will of the Father?**
2. **If you were to die today and stand before Jesus – what would He say to you?**
- A. **Depart from Me, I never knew you? Or, would He welcome you into heaven?**
- 1) **If heaven, are you absolutely certain about it?**

- 3. Have you ever questioned whether or not you were really saved?**
 - A. Does it really make a difference what we believe and how we live here on earth?**
 - 1) Wouldn't you like to be absolutely sure of your salvation?**
 - B. Of all the various religious doctrines and creeds out in the world, wouldn't you like to know the truth?**
- 4. No one has to go through life wondering if they're saved.**
 - A. Jesus assured us that we can know the truth.**

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Truth Does Exist

- 1. It is real – it is not whatever you believe it to be or what someone else believes it to be.**
 - A. There is an objective standard for determining right or wrong, good or evil.**

2. Truth can set us free!

A. From the bondage of sin.

John 8:34 Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

- 1) Truth can set us free from the burdens of life.**
- 2) Truth not only sets us free from unrighteous behavior, but it also can set us free from false religious practices and the traditions of men.**
 - a) Many today are burdened with various religious practices, rites, and ceremonies — nowhere mentioned in the Bible!**
- 3) These religious burdens cause our worship to become vain.**
Matthew 15:8-9

B. Could it be that you have been shackled by the teachings and commandments of men?

- 1) Are you being asked to do things that God has never asked you to do?**
 - a) The truth of God's inspired Word, the Bible can set us free from religious bondage.**

3. We can know the truth and it can set us free. Everyone needs to know that truth is only found in Jesus.

John 14:6

A. If we are truly searching for truth, and if Jesus is the truth, then we should go to Jesus to find that truth.

1) The truth of Jesus is a precious commodity.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

B. Truth can purify our souls and we must obey the truth if we want to avoid eternal punishment.

1 Peter 1:22-23 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Life is Uncertain

- 1. The young, the old, and all ages in between are in cemeteries all around the world**
 - A. I wonder how many of them died not knowing the truth.**
- 2. The Bible says that we are going to be judged by what we have done on Earth.**

Romans 2:2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

Romans 2:16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

- A. The truth is the gospel – the Bible.**

Conclusion

- 1. Are you really saved?**
 - A. If you answered “yes” is it based on the truth of the Word?**
- 2. Do you really know the truth?**
 - A. Are you certain about it?**

Invitation

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Richard Thetford, August 2007 (Based on the book by John Moore "Searching for Truth")