

Eternal Life

Imagine rounding a corner and just there you see the bridge over a deep ravine is no longer there, it's has been destroyed. You manage to stop just in time! What do you do? Immediately you turn around and go back around the corner and there you place your car across the road and get out to warn any oncoming traffic of the danger.

This message is just such a warning to oncoming "traffic" heading down the road of life. There is impending danger ahead and I want to warn you about this danger and how to avoid it.

So, to begin with, let's consider what the Heavenly Father had in mind for life on earth prior to creation, prior to the entry of sin into this world. We get a glimpse of this from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Eph 1:3-4 ... *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him."*

His plan was that we live "in Christ" enjoying every spiritual blessing heaven had to afford, and by this living a holy and blameless life. What a way to live!

Holy and blameless. Holiness and blamelessness imply an atmosphere and life of ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and all the other attributes of godliness. Is that how we live and what we see in the world now? Or is the picture somewhat different?

Envy, strife, unfaithfulness, deceit, hatred, greed, selfishness, unkindness, criticism, spitefulness, theft, cheating, betrayal, drunkenness, pride, foul-mouth, swearing, lying, uncouth revelry ... This is the picture of the world's way of living today. Quite a contrast to that which God purposed for us.

I'll come back to these contrasting positions later. But for now, let's focus on what God has said and the provision He has made for us to return to what He originally planned for us, both promises and warnings.

Rev 20:11-15 ... *"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

Each one of us would do well to ask, "Is my name in the 'book of life?'" and, if not, "How does my name get into the book of life?" For an eternity in the Lake of Fire is certainly not a desirable destination. What a painful eternity. Think of the worst pain you have suffered and multiply it a hundred times and this will still be less painful than life in the lake of fire.

Rev 21:1-8, 27 ... *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ Then 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 will 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." ... ²⁷ and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it (the new heaven and new earth), but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

Rev 22:7 ... *"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."*

"Quickly" is better translated as "suddenly" ... in an instant.

1 Cor 15:50-57 ... *"Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Rev 3:1-6 ... *"I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴ But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

John 11:25-27 ... *"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."*

John 8:23-24 ... *"And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. ²⁴ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."*

John 14:6 ... *"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*

It's not through hail Mary rosaries, or attending a church service, or reading scriptures (the Pharisees knew the Scriptures but they rejected Christ) or through anything else by which we can come to the Father. It's only as we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and the sacrificial and redeeming work He did on our behalf on the Cross and by asking Him to come into our heart and make us new – living by His life and ways that we are reconciled to God the Father.

John 1:1-4, 9, 14 ... *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ... ⁹ There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man ... ¹⁴ "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

1 John 5:11-12 ... *"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."*

John 3:16 ... *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*

Rom 3:23-24 ... *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."*

You don't have to teach a baby or young child to sin, it in their nature – lies, deceit, theft, selfishness, disobedience ... we are all born in sin and what is required is a change of this sinful nature. We must be born again.

Rom 8:5-11 ... *"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."*

John 3:3 ... *"Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Eph 2:5 ... *"even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)."*

Acts 4:2 ... *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."*

Isa 55:6 ... *"Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near."*

You don't know when Christ may return, it will be in an instant. Don't wait too long, place faith in Him and His redemptive work while you can.

Jer 29:13 ... *"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."*

2 Cor 5:10a ... *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body."*

Is your name in the "Book of Life?"

Back to where we started – the two contrasting ways. Holy and blameless ... or ... a life of envy, strife, unfaithfulness, deceit, hatred, greed, selfishness, unkindness, criticism, spitefulness, theft, cheating, betrayal, drunkenness, pride, foul-mouth, swearing, lying, uncouth revelry.

Why do we fear the world and its ways and comply with it rather than fearing God and receiving the life He has to offer. (Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ). Why are we happy to conform with the ways of our unsaved friends or people around us rather than standing up for righteousness, holiness and truth? At the end of the day all your worldly friends and the world of evil will be cast into the lake of eternal fire and none will be there to offer you help. Only those who have believed in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and have been born again and lived by His righteous, holy blameless life will be welcomed into His presence to live in the new heaven and new earth with Him for all eternity.

Eternal life and joy with the Lord as your life and your all, or temporal worldly pleasures with eternal death and suffering. What will be your choice?

Rev 21:6-8, 27 ... *"Then 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 will 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.' ... ²⁷ and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it (the new heaven and new earth), but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

Rev 3:1-6 ... *"I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore, if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴ But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his*

name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

I trust you will give this matter serious thought and that you will make certain by your decision that your name is included in the "book of life."

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

Amen.