



An undenominational publication devoted to the teachings of Jesus and His apostles and dedicated to those who ask, seek and knock so they will receive, find and the door opened for them.

A NEW WORLD IS COMING!

When we consider the design and intricate planning that went into creating the beautiful world in which we live, it makes sense to believe God intends for life to continue long after we ourselves have passed away. A new world is coming, and most of the people we know want to be ready to enter it! Have you read this promise in the Scriptures: “According to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 5:13). Here are some facts the Scriptures teach about the new world:

• **IT WILL BE A NEW KIND OF WORLD.**

“The heavens will pass away with a roar and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. . . . The heavens will be set on fire and dissolve, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!” (2 Peter 5:10-12). As beautiful as this physical universe is, it is not the eternal destiny of God’s people!

• **IT WILL BE OUR FATHER’S HOUSE.**

“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:2-4).



• **IT WILL BE THE HOMELAND ANTICIPATED BY PEOPLE OF FAITH.**

Abraham “looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.” “They desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city” (Hebrews 11:10-16). Our “citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20).

• **HEAVEN IS A PREPARED PLACE FOR A PREPARED PEOPLE.**

Jesus said: “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). The true Christian hope “is laid up in heaven” (Colossians 1:5). “If you practice these qualities...there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-11).

— David Tarbet, Editor
Church of Christ, New Milford, Connecticut



GOD'S JUDGMENT

WILL BE JUST AND FAIR

Everyone is accountable to God for his life. No one will escape this reality. “For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has

done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

How can God judge everyone justly since our individual backgrounds and experiences are so different? This issue was considered in the letter to the Romans. “He will render to each one according to his works; to those who by patience in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life; but for those who are self seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury” (Romans 2:6-8). The Roman letter is addressing the contrasting situation of Jews and Gentiles. Jews had the revealed will of God in writing — the Law. However, Gentiles would be held responsible for a different law. “For when the Gentiles, who do not have the Law, by nature do what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the Law. They show that the work of the Law is written on their hearts, while their conscience bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus” (Romans 2:14-16). This is a reference to the “natural law”. Everyone made in the image of God innately knows what is morally right or wrong. Conscience tries to guide us to do the right thing. God will rightly judge Gentiles according to the law written on their hearts. God even knows the secrets of our heart and why we do what we do. Therefore, we will be judged individually by God.

We all need God’s forgiveness. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24). No matter what our background, we all need the intervention of God. Only God is in a position to judge everyone justly. Jesus lived a sinless life and paid for our sins by His sacrifice on the cross. “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

Each of us owes it to himself to learn how to “obey the truth” and receive forgiveness of sins. We can help you understand God’s plan. Contact us to learn more!

YOUR SOUL WILL LIVE FOREVER



In the last 3 months, I have spoken at 5 different funeral services. Each service was unique, but the pain and tears were present at all of them. Although we are all aware of the inevitability of death, it is never easy to lose someone you love – no matter when, where, or how that person departs this world. However, most people believe their loved ones are in a “better place” after death. That belief is filled with hope as it empowers people to grieve better, knowing that their deceased loved ones are at peace in a better place.

Even among non-believers, there is a fundamental belief that death is not final. Although there may be sharp disagreements regarding what lies beyond death, phrases like “They are in a better place,” or “rest in peace” denotes the idea of some type of belief in the after life and that the soul will live on. We are more than just flesh and blood. According to scripture, death happens when the spirit departs from the body (Genesis 35:18; James 2:26). The soul is the very essence of man, it is the breath of life that God places inside of us as living beings (Genesis 2:7). When all biological functions cease, the spirit returns to its Creator (Ecclesiastes 12: 6-7). The human body returns to dust, the soul lives on because no one and nothing can destroy it except for God who created it (Matthew 10:28).

It is a sobering thought to realize not everyone who dies goes to a “better place”. In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus taught about two men who died but their spirits lived on in two different places. One was comforted in the presence of Abraham; the other found himself in torment and agony. Your soul will live on, but where? Jesus offered Himself as the only way to know for sure that your soul will rest in peace (John 14:6, Matthew 11: 28-29). Have you given yourself to Him?

— Donny Pierre, Pulpit Minister
Waterbury Church of Church of Christ

AFTER DEATH, YOUR DESTINY WILL BE FIXED



Making things right with God before we die is of utmost importance. The advice of Amos, an inspired prophet of the Old Testament, was: “Prepare to meet your God!” (Amos 4:12). All of us need to listen to this advice because before death we have a chance to get ready, but after death there is no changing our eternal destiny. To give our lives to Jesus Christ is a choice we have before death, but after death there will be no other opportunity for God’s forgiveness.

Jesus gave a lesson concerning two individuals who passed away. One died in a right relationship with God; the other did not. One died “saved” with his sins forgiven; the other died “lost” with his sins unforgiven. In eternity, a “great chasm is fixed” between those who died lost and those who died saved. Jesus said no one can cross the chasm. Eternal destiny is unchangeable. Making things right with God means we must obey what God teaches (in the Scriptures) while we still live on earth. In the words of Jesus, Abraham said: “They (the living) have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ “The lost man said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ Abraham replied: ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead’” (Luke 16:19-31).

The Bible teaches: “It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Hebrews 9:27).

Those left behind when we die can do nothing to change our eternal destiny. No good deeds, no financial offerings to a church, change the destiny of souls. Only in earthly life are we able to choose to love God, to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, to repent of our sins, to be baptized.

Your soul is your most precious possession; what you do with it has eternal consequences. Give yourself to God while you can! The apostle Paul put it like this: “Now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). We can help you make things right with God. Today can be your day of salvation!

— David Tarbet, Editor
New Milford, Connecticut

YOUR INFLUENCE WILL GO ON AND ON



Our influence may be good or bad, but the truth is we are influencing other people. Just think of the people who know you that have been touched by you in some way. Influence is powerful and it continues after we are gone.

The greatest example of the power of influence is Jesus. He came to earth to show us God. He loved us more than life. His life, death and resurrection have changed millions and millions of lives. That is the power of influence. The people that knew Him best turned the world upside down. Two-thousand years later we are still being influenced by Jesus. Your influence will live on after you die. “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!” (Revelation 13:14).

After the death of our son Timothy, my wife and I struggled to understand our loss. Timothy’s dream of a home for children seemed impossible. But in 1980 we dedicated our first house at the *Timothy Hill Children’s Ranch* on Long Island. Now the Ranch has additional campuses in Massachusetts, Tennessee and Arkansas. This is an example of the power of influence of a 13 year old boy over 50 years ago.

As we grow older we think about what God wants us to leave behind when we die. We have prayed a lot about this and here are some things we hope to leave behind:

- **Memories of a godly marriage:** where husband and wife loved each other and parents loved children. Home has been a place of fun and forgiveness.
- **Faith:** a genuine faith in God, in Jesus and in the Bible.
- **Love for all people:** Jesus said: “Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them” (Matthew 7:12).
- **Hospitality:** welcoming guests and helping them to feel loved.
- **Hope:** with God anything is possible. Hope of eternal life.
- **Joy:** with family and friends and seeing others come to faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Pure Religion:** Fatherless children at the cross-roads of life are a priority.
- **Wisdom:** Faithfulness, obedience to God and humility.
- **Values:** We pray for God’s wisdom to leave His values to our family. It’s a matter of values vs. valuables.

Trust God to continue to transform your life by His love and when you die you will leave behind a powerful influence for good. Because it is God who works in you He will get the glory.

— Jerry Hill, Director
Timothy Hill Children’s Home
Riverhead, L.I., New York

ITS NOT TOO LATE TO CHANGE!

Jesus gave a parable about a fig tree that had not produced the anticipated fruit. “Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.’” As a person goes through life, things may not turn out as one would hope. He might want to throw in the towel and say, “what is the use?” But this parable illustrates that its never too late to change.



The Bible is filled with examples of those who made bad choices, and realized it was not too late to change. For example, King David made terrible choices. He committed adultery with Bathsheba, and had her husband killed. He carried his guilt until he was “worn out from groaning” (Psalms 6:6). God helped David make the big changes in his life. It can be seen all through the book of Psalms.

A woman was caught in the act of adultery. With her dignity taken away, religious leaders said: “She is to be put to death.” But Jesus told the woman to “go and sin no more.” (John 8:11). It was not too late to change.

When Peter swore that he did not know Christ, the cock crew and he wept bitterly (Luke 22:62). Yet, Peter realized that it was not too late to change. God could still use him to feed His sheep (John 21).

There are times when we might feel that our sin is too great. Just remember, regardless of the consequences and embarrassment that sin often brings it is never too late to change. It is never too late to be forgiven.

The jailer in Acts 16 washed the stripes that he laid upon Paul and Silas and was baptized to have his sins washed away. He now could live a new life in Christ. Years ago I shared the gospel with a lady in her late eighties. Tears of joy flowed down her cheeks. She said, “finally after all of these years, I heard the truth.” It is never too late to change.

— Larry Krause, Minister
Church of Christ, Kittanning, Pennsylvania

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