LIVING YOUR FUTURE

John 5:28-29 ... "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth-those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

We often hear from preachers and Bible teachers that when you accept Jesus as Lord and Savior you are promised to live for eternity. They often say, "Come to Jesus and live forever." That is true. However, eternity applies to everyone and it begins when each of us was conceived in the womb. Eternal life – whether you spend it in heaven or hell – begins when your physical life began.

One of the hopes of people who reject Christ, is that when they die, they will simply turn to dust and no longer exist. They want to believe that their life on earth is all there is and they will simply disappear when death finds them. Others want to believe that if they reject Christ but live honest, respectable lives, they will be allowed into heaven. They live with the hope that if there is a hell, it is reserved for truly evil people. Even today's passage refers to "those who have done evil." However, in God's kingdom evil is described not only by what you do with your life, but by what you do not do. Rejecting Christ in this life earns you the distinction of being an evil person, even if you do not spend your life murdering and stealing. This frightening fact is revealed to us in 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 ... "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..." Please note the word "everlasting." That means, time without end; forever; eternity.

My question for you today is, how are you living out your future? You cannot escape hell if you reject Christ. You are guaranteed eternal life, but it is up to you where you spend it – either heaven or hell. The Bible tells you, with precision and truthfulness, what your life will be like for eternity. It does not matter what you "hope" for. Only the plan of our creator matters and he has made that abundantly clear in his Word.

You are already living in your future. What will you do today and tomorrow that reflects where you will spend eternity? Are you stacking up rewards in heaven for serving Jesus, or are you solidifying your future of everlasting punishment in hell? Choose wisely.

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