

## Talk It Over

## One Minute After You Die (Week 1) Threshold Of Eternity

### SMALL TALK

1. What did you grow up believing about life after death?

### VIEWPOINT

2. Why do you think it's so easy to live most of life ignoring what happens after we die?
3. **READ 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.** What does this passage have to say about how we should live? What does this passage have to say about what happens after we die?

*2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (NIV2011) {1} For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. {2} Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, {3} because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. {4} For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. {5} Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. {6} Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. {7} For we live by faith, not by sight. {8} We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. {9} So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. {10} For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

4. **READ John 5:24, and 11:21-26.** According to Jesus who has eternal life, and when does it begin?

*John 5:24 (NIV) "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me **has eternal life** ...*

*John 11:21-26 (NIV) {21} "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. {22} But I know that even now God*

*will give you whatever you ask.” {23} Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” {24} Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” {25} Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; {26} and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?**”*

5. **READ 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.** What happens to the believer who truly believes in Jesus but did not live with eternal significance?

***1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NIV) {11} For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. {12} If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, {13} their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. {14} If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. {15} If it is burned up, **the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*****

## GETTING PERSONAL

6. How do you already live like eternity matters? Are there any ways you’re living like it doesn’t?
7. What are some things you’d love to be known for when you meet Jesus in Heaven?
8. What is one change you want to make to live with eternity in mind?
9. How can we challenge each other to really live compelled by the Spirit’s prompting to share God’s good news for His glory?

## MAKING PROGRESS

10. One of our core statements is: “Live With Eternal Significance.” Revisit your answers for questions 6-9? Are you making progress? How do we become motivated to cut roots to our temporary fixations and nurture deeper roots in eternal matters for eternal results?

October 6, 2019

## **One Minute After You Die**

Week 1- At The Threshold Of Eternity

### **Box Illustration (opening the lid)**

I believe eternal questions are the most important questions to be considered. Yet, how does anyone approach questions about ETERNITY? How can we know what happens one minute after you die? Is there life after death? Is Heaven a real place? Where do we get any information? Is it all just wishful thinking?

Scientists know that questions outside of the box like this are outside of the view of an empirical lens. And yet scientists have questions that are outside of the box too. Their science leads to such questions. Questions like, if the big bang theory is true, then what caused the big bang? How did it happen? What was before the big bang? Such questions are questions outside of the scope of any scientific lenses. Science admits that having such questions opens the lid to closed box. We need something outside of empirical evidence to answer such questions.

But here's the kicker--once you acknowledge that our sensory limitation is a closed box and yet we still have questions that require answers outside of the box that cannot be resolved from the empiricism that limits the box, you have opened the lid to the box! Everything still points to questions outside of the box. Can such questions be answered? If so, then how?

Through a different lens than science has to offer. The lens of revelation, helps us see things our eyes could not see before. Just like science uses lenses like microscopes and telescopes, theologians use lenses too--the lens of history, the lens of revelation, the lens of fulfilled prophecy, the lens of experience.

What if God gave us a revelation of reality outside of our sensory box?

### **The etch-a-sketch.**

This is an etch-a-sketch. Imagine living inside a closed universe where all we had were our senses, and our senses could not “see” outside the box? Could we still sense that there was something bigger turning the knobs from outside the box? If so, how? As a child I was fascinated by the etch-a-sketch. From the outside you could look inside. But if we were inside, the same lines would give us a glimpse outside the box. We get glimpses of the outside, glimpses of God through his revealing lines he has graciously offered to us!!

Before you write me off, consider this. Jesus claimed to be someone who came from outside of our box into our world, to tell us about what we can experience with God forever. If Jesus’ claim is valid, there really is a reality outside of our box and he really knows all about it. Do we have any reasons to believe him? He did miracles. He predicted his own death. He predicted he would rise again. History’s evidence seems to indicate there is validity to these claims. There are whole books on the historical and empirical evidence that there is credible evidence for this.

If you want information about matters outside of the box, you have to get it from a source outside of the box. The Bible makes this claim, and Jesus does too. Don’t you think the best source of information about heaven is from someone who has been there? I do.

In the next 3 sessions we will be looking at 1. At the threshold of Eternity, 2. Eternity Without God, and 3. Eternity With God.

Let’s begin.

## I. At the Threshold of Eternity...

Jesus spoke a lot about eternal life.

*John 5:24 (NIV) “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me **has eternal life** ...*

An eternal kind of life can begin now, and it lasts forever.

*Matthew 16:26-27 (NIV) {26} What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? {27} For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.*

### REFLECT

What you believe about eternity determines how you live today.

*John 11:21-26 (NIV) {21} “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. {22} But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” {23} Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” {24} Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” {25} Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. **The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; {26} and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?**”*

This almost sounds like double speak. To some people it sounds nonsensical. But it makes sense. Because of sin and the fallen condition of our world, everyone dies. But what is death? If you believe in Jesus, you can die, but not die.

### 1. **ONLY our physical bodies DIE**

Paul said it this way when he wrote to the church in Corinth.

*2 Corinthians 5:1 (NLT) ..when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, **when we die and leave this earthly body**), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself...*

## 2. Our **SOULS** are eternal and separate from our **BODIES**

*2 Corinthians 5:2-9 (NLT) We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.*

*{3} For **we will put on heavenly bodies**; we will not be spirits without bodies. {4} While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. {5} God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. {6} So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. {7} For we live by believing and not by seeing. {8} Yes, we are fully confident, and **we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.** {9} So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, **our goal is to please him.***

## 3. We will all face **JUDGMENT**

*Hebrews 9:27 (NIV) Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment*

### II. There are two **JUDGMENTS**

#### 1. Judged to be **IN** our **OUT** at the great **WHITE** throne

*Revelation 20:11-12(NIV) {11} Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. ... {12} And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. ....*

Revelation goes on to describe what is in the book of life. Names. If your name is written in the book, you spend eternity with God. If your name is not in the book, you spend eternity separated from

God. Jesus already said this many ways. Here is one of his most sobering statements.

*Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV2011) {21} “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ {23} Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’*

## **2. Judged to receive REWARDS or loss of REWARDS at the SEAT of Christ**

*2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

This confuses some people. They say, wait a minute. I thought we were saved by grace. You are! You are saved by grace, not by works!

We don't work our way into heaven, we can't. And yet, once we receive grace through what Jesus did for us in his death, burial, and resurrection, we WANT to live for Christ and do good works. These “works” don't save us, they come by his grace. These works are merely appropriate and grateful responses to Christ's saving work, and such appropriate responses will be rewarded!

At this judgment there will declaration of reward or loss of reward.

*1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NIV) {11} For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. {12} If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, {13} their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. {14} If what has been built survives, the builder **will receive a***

***reward.** {15} If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

They are saved because their life is on the one foundation, Jesus Christ. But the life that has nothing to show for it suffers loss, even if they are saved.

Imagine, one day, your life is over. Imagine, you are in awe before the glorious Lord. And he looks to you and says to you, “Well done, good and faithful servant. He rewards you. On that last day, after you take your last breath, there are **no do overs!**”

### REFLECT

Here is the danger even for believers: The longer we live, the deeper our roots can sink into the soil of this world, clinging to the temporary instead of the eternal; clinging to the comfortable, what we see, valuing what people think more than what God thinks.

**What you believe about eternity determines how you live today.**

***2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

What do we need to do? We need to think about eternity and live for eternity. Re-center ourselves with an eternal focus. We need to “live with eternal significance”. We need to pray, read scriptures, see people the way God does.

We are just passing through here. Let’s cut some roots that keep us from living with the one goal of pleasing God! Let’s break some worldly roots. Let’s take this wakeup call seriously.

Dear God,

Thank You that this life is not the end. Thank You for making a way for us, through Jesus, to spend an eternal life with You. Holy Spirit, reveal to us when our perspective is off track. We want to do Your will here while we're on earth. Teach us how to live with eternity in mind. In Jesus' name, amen.