

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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The Problem of Eternal Life

Introduction

The headlines were written to bring about astonishment to the readers, “The man who could not die” and “The problem of eternal Life”. These present inescapable questions of a single deeper question. “Would I want to live in pain forever, unable to die, and no amount of morphine etc. could ease the pain? Thankfully, we need not look to humanity for the answers, although man has tried.

The Man Who Could Not Die

In 1925 a baby was born in the poverty-stricken country of Siberia. There were already thirteen in the family and with scarcely enough food for the family the baby was not wanted, he was named Wasyl. When the child of three had typhoid, his brother abandoned him in a cupboard. The family hoped he would die but to their dismay, he lived. Being Russian he was brought up atheistic, going to a communist school. At sixteen he was drafted into the Russian army where, due to the providential preservation of God despite two near-death experiences, he lived. One occasion was when he was hiding in a haystack and the German soldier thrust his sword in and missed his body by a hairsbreadth. Later he would learn of two other men, one, a man who could not die but chose to die for others, the other a man for whom death meant his entrance into unspeakable delights.

Wasyl at times wondered, “Was there a God”? Since he had narrowly escaped death, was it just good fortune? Did his life have a meaning or was he just a collection of molecules accidentally born into this sphere called Earth? For years no answer came nor could be found. One day while in hiding he heard for the first time in his life the story of the Lord and His death and resurrection. It was a delightful story but was it true? God gently and with love caused Wasyl to hear the gospel and upon hearing God’s way of salvation, accepted Christ as His Saviour.

The opening paragraph of the article then read, “The stage is rapidly being reached where it will be made impossible for the human body to die”. There are those who in seeking to cancel the power of death, are resorting to cryonics (the practice or technique of deep-freezing the bodies of people who have just died). This ideally preserves the body, by pausing the decaying process using subfreezing temperatures with the intent of restoring good health with medical technology in the future. Dennis Kowalski who is the president of the Cryonics Institute acknowledges cryonics isn’t a guarantee. He describes it as, “an ambulance ride to a future hospital that may or may not exist”. He sells the fact that we are going to die, but, if there’s even an outside chance of prolonging life through cryonics, there’s nothing to lose and potentially a second life to gain. Even if there was the slightest possibility of life being relived would anyone like to come back from 30, 40, or 50 years ago into today's world?

God's Answer To The Questions

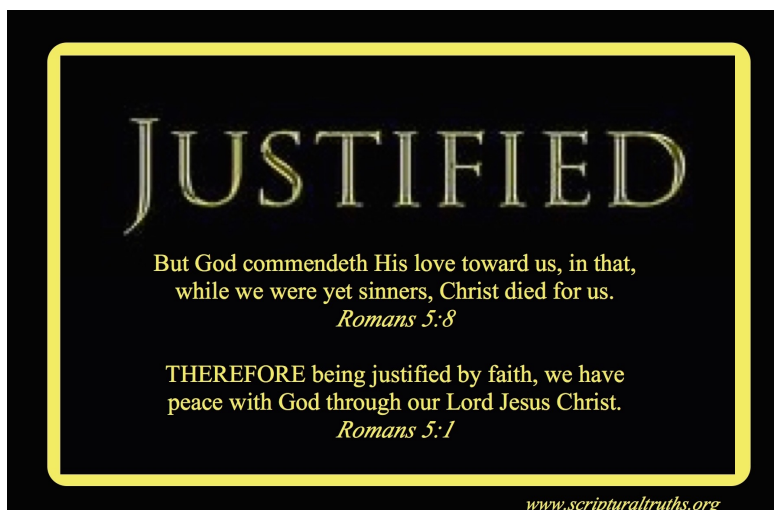
God informs humanity why man dies. It is because of sin. When Adam sinned there was introduced into the human body a deformed "gene" called sin, and its ultimate result is universal death even over that which had not sinned itself. There is not an animal, vegetable, or flower that does not die. Sin affected all creation, not just man. No one in their right mind would think of freezing a dead dog so that in "x" years it could be brought back to a delightful little companion. So with the human body or any life form. Just as a man will never find the missing link between an orangutang and a human being he will never find the fountain of perpetual youth. Wrinkles can be filled in with paste but they are still there, grey hair can be coloured but it is still returning to grey because of sin. Everyone dies when death calls and no one can stay its power or present effectiveness. The Bible states, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). Death is an intrusion into the ideal. God is the God of the living, and life is what man was designed to be, but sin came in, which is rebellion against God, the separation of spiritual death manifested in physical death.

In Revelation 9:2-6, there are described people who want to die but cannot. In the judgment, God delivers on humanity a creature with a sting like a scorpion. The pharmaceutical companies of the earth will search for a pain reducing medication but it will be of no use. It will be void of any distinction in humanity. Rich and poor will be affected, educated and illiterate, political leaders and commoners, it will make no difference. Day and night for five months humanity will suffer. Unlike the sting of a natural scorpion which burns for the first hours and then decreases, this sting will cause agony, possibly burning for five long months. It will be so severe that men will want to die and death will flee from them. In other words, they will live in agony for round figures 24 hours a day for 150 days. Would they like to die or stay in that state perpetually?

Thank God there is a way to live forever and never know what it is to worry ever again, no more pain, never another fear of cancer, never again ever have a necessity for the hospital, care home, morgue or undertaker. God offers eternal life, fulness of pleasure and unending fellowship with Him. God offers a life of unending bliss and love, an ageless environment where His own will manifest the freshness of a bride eternally. This life is not by the ignoring of personal sin, not by the striving to overcome it through good works, but by two supernatural activities of God.

- a) The first supernatural activity was when God in grace and love, knowing all our sins, made Christ accountable. He on the cross at Calvary was viewed by God as I am, and God executed upon Christ the full penalty for sins. Sin was man's forsaking God and fellowship with God can only be by one who was forsaken by God. That was the experience of Jesus Christ at Calvary, who at the end of the three hours of darkness cried, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46). This was the only time we ever read of the Lord asking God the Father a question. That was the divine part.
- b) The other supernatural happening is when an individual stops depending on their good works, church-going etc. and transfers their faith from their works to the finished work of Christ. At that moment they are "born again". It is a work of God when the individual is not only forgiven but stands before God fully justified without sin to their celestial record. God has it written so that there is no mistaking, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). That is life in abundance and a life that will never die.

... Rowan Jennings



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