

Unshakable
Life After Death

What you believe about eternity determines how you
live today.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

“Now 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. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore, we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

So let me say this again, what you believe about eternity determines how you live today. If you believe you are an accident and life has no meaning, then you will live for the pleasure of today with no thought of tomorrow. If you believe you were created by God with the purpose, that knowledge will shape how you live.

You will live somewhere. So today I want to address three things that happens after this life is done.

1. Our physical bodies will die.

Hebrews 9:27,28 "Just as Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was crucified once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

2. So when your body dies your soul continues to live.

There will be a funeral and after the funeral while everyone is at uncle Frank's house eating a potluck dinner you will never be more alive than you are at that moment. Your soul still lives even though your body is gone.

Jesus beautifully illustrates this point in **John 11:25,26**. Jesus was talking to Martha who was upset because her brother Lazarus was dead. He had been dead for four days and this is what Jesus said to Martha. ***"Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"***

So what happens to the soul of a person who believes in Jesus after they die?

We do know that to be absent with the body is to be present with the Lord. We do know that there were two criminals hanging next to Jesus. They were both guilty and needed forgiveness. One recognized his need for Jesus and called out and said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Even the apostle Paul wrestled with what he wanted. Do I want to continue to live here and make a difference or do I Do what is better for me? This is what he said, ***"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.***

If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two. I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far, but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.”

So far we have seen the two different things that happens after this life is done. Our physical bodies die and our soul will separate from our physical bodies. The third thing that happens after we die is....

3. We will all face judgment.

1 Peter 1:17 “since you call on a Father who judges each man’s works in partially, live your lives as strangers here and reverent fear.”

We forget this sometimes, this world is not our home we are just passing through. This life is a short period of time. The Bible says, ***“Our life is but a vapor here one moment and gone the next.”***

So let me take a moment and show you two types of judgments and talk about each one.

1. The first is called the Great White Throne Judgment.

This judgment is only for nonbelievers. ***Revelation 20:11-12 says, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. Then I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and the books were opened, another book was opened which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”***

What is this book of life? Here is the good news, when you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior by grace through faith in him your name

is written in the book of life! And when your name is found in this book after your body dies and you are standing before God you will hear these spoken words “Well done good and faithful servant now enter into your rest.”

But I also want you to see the other side of this coin. The other side of this coin used to keep me up at night and is still a sobering thought.

Turn with me to **Matthew 7:21-23** ***“Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my father who is in heaven. 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 performed many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evil doers!”***

2. The second judgment is called the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 say, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

What is the judgment seat of Christ, it comes from the Greek word “Boma” it’s where we get our word for Olympics. When athletes run their race the winners would come before a judge and the athletes would stand on the Boma and the judge would give out the prizes for first, second and third place. The Boma is a place that acknowledges that you finished the race. The judgment seat of Christ is in a place of judgment for your sins. This is a place where Jesus acknowledges that what you did on earth is rewarded in heaven.

So let me stop here and say this just to be clear, we are not saved by our works. You cannot be religious enough or good enough to go to heaven. By nature, we are sinners and our sin separates us from a holy God. We are saved by The grace of Jesus and only the grace of Jesus!

But we are rewarded for our works. We are saved by grace but rewarded for our works. Because we have been saved and changed by the grace of Jesus we want to do good works because we are no longer the same. So that means what you do now matters!

What will you be rewarded for and what will you be judged for? Let me just share a few of these things with you this morning.

1. How you treat people, how you care for the least of these, the poor the broken you will be judged for.
2. You will be judged by your motives. By the words you speak. You will be judged by the way you endure suffering and rewarded. You will be judged or rewarded by what you do with what you have. You will be rewarded by the people you bring to Christ. Jesus will say you visited me when I was sick or in prison. Jesus said if you did it to the least of these you did it to me. Remember, what we believe about eternity will impact what we do today.