

The Life to Come
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Introduction: Our God wants us to clearly understand that there is a life to come.

- A. It is not uncommon to hear the question about why God allows things to happen!
 - 1. If we could only see in light of the “here and now” then indeed life would be “vanity” and a “grasping after the wind.” (**Ecc 1:14**)
 - 2. We need to see things from God’s viewpoint. This life is not all there is!
- B. The Christian life would make no sense without a life to come.
 - 1. Paul plainly pointed out the reasonable alternative if we have no promise of an afterlife! (**1 Cor 15:30-32**)
 - 2. We are living in times where men are questioning everything. Questions are fine if we look to God’s answer.

I. Jesus taught a resurrection that will lead to the life to come

- A. Jesus was willing to openly debate the question of the resurrection with the Sadducees. (**Lk 20:27**)
 - 1. The Sadducees did not like Jesus’ preaching. Why?
 - 2. Jesus reasoned from the Law of Moses to establish a present, conscious existence of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (**Lk 20:37-38**)
 - 3. He also gave some additional information about the nature of this afterlife. (**Lk 20:34-36**)
- B. Jesus taught about the resurrection to the afterlife.
 - 1. Jesus had intentionally delayed and Lazarus had died.
 - 2. Jesus begins to talk about His connection to the future resurrection. (**Jn 11:23-26**)
 - 3. He had taught about a general resurrection in His ministry. (**Jn 5:28-29**)
 - 4. Jesus wanted everyone to understand that he was “the resurrection and the life.” He demonstrated that in a stunning way. (**Jn 11:40-46**)
- C. The resurrection of Christ is the very foundation of all that we are as Christians.
 - 1. It established Jesus as the Son of God. (**Acts 2:32, 36**)
 - 2. We now have a living hope! (**1 Pt 1:3-5**)
 - 3. It is in this heavenly hope that great power is found in our lives.

II. The life to come helps me with worry and anxiety

- A. How many things do we worry about?
 - 1. What if ... I lose my job, the “wrong” leader is elected, people gossip about me...?
 - 2. Jesus is in control in this life and the one to come. (**Eph 1:19-21**)
 - 3. Do you think you know of something that Jesus does not?
- B. We have a taste of heaven now.
 - 1. Jesus allows things to be removed from us to build our faith. He also provides in this life richly. (**Mk 10:29-30**)

2. Do you realize that God wants us to be a living example of the fullness of His grace? **(1 Cor 3:21-23; Eph 2:7)**
3. When we understand the power of God, the promises of God and the character of God then we will be a rejoicing people!

III. The life to come helps me with hurts and forgiveness

- A. Satan is a master deceiver and a master at setting snares.
 1. When people act in a sinful way towards others, it is because of Satan.
 2. When innocent people allow uncontrolled anger to drive their response, Satan wins! **(Eph 4:26-27)**
 3. Politicians have said “a crisis is a terrible thing to waste.” Often they create the crisis and then offer “solutions” that make things worse.
 4. I have seen older men compromise younger preachers with false doctrine and then use the adverse reaction of some to push them further away. Bitterness is a very useful fruit of Satan. **(Gal 4:16-17)**
 5. Another Elder described those that set “a fire” in the church which the Elders deal with only to have them blame the Elders for setting the fire.
- B. When others hurt you look to Jesus and the life to come.
 1. We cannot be forgiven if we do not forgive. **(Mt 6:14-15)**
 2. What hurt has others put on you? Does it compare to Jesus? **(1 Pt 2:21-23)**
 3. What will these hurts be in eternity? What has God forgiven you in comparison to what you have been forgiven?

IV. The life to come helps me long for a great reunion

- A. The older you get, the more Christians you know cross the finish line.
 1. We will keep our identity in the life to come. Moses and Elijah continued to be who they were at the transfiguration. **(Mt 17:3)**
 2. We know that the multitude of the saved will be together forever. **(1 Thess 4:17-18)**
 3. The memory of the righteous serves as witnesses to our current race of faith! **(Heb 12:1)**
 4. I pray that my memory in my loved ones will beacon them on to our ultimate home. I do not know who will go first.
- B. The greatest reunion will be with God.
 1. This is the city that I long for. **(Heb 13:12-15)**
 2. This will be the ultimate fulfillment of what I was created for.
 3. What tears will He wipe away? He will do it well. **(Rev 21:4-5)**
- C. One day we will worship with the 24 elders and all of the saved.
 1. The heart of our song will be praise to our God who has used His power to rule well. **(Rev 11:16-17)**
 2. Looking backwards from eternity it will all make sense!

Conclusion: Will your life have an endless hope or be another hopeless end?