

The Way of the Lord

2. You Are Born, You Live, and You Die....Then What?

In the first segment in our series, we encouraged you to discuss God's Word with others, with the intent of APPLYING it and MAKING it your way of life. If you know you belong to our Lord Jesus, then seek out other people who are ready to obey Him and live for Him — NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. This is the only way you'll authentically REFLECT JESUS to the people around you.

Beginning with this segment and several to come, we want to review with you how OUR FATHER sees you and how HE wants you to understand and relate to Him and His Son Jesus.

Let's begin with a few key points about birth and death. None of us remembers our birth, much less our conception. But at that moment a spectacular miracle occurred. You received a SPIRIT from God. And that spirit longs to return to Him in heaven when you die. You also received your SOUL, which is made up of your mind, your will and your emotions. But within your soul also came a desire to sin. That's your SIN NATURE! It will try to keep you out of HEAVEN and lead you to HELL, if it can.

We're ALL born with a battle inside us between our spirit and our soul. So why do you need to understand what's happening in this battle? And why are the DAILY decisions you make right up until you die so important? Because that's how you'll truly come to appreciate just WHO Jesus is, AND what He's accomplished for you through His death on the cross.

The choices you make between your birth and death will affect you for eternity. What happens AFTER you leave earth is the THEN WHAT? part of your life. It's the THEN WHAT? that our Father in heaven is most concerned with about you. From His viewpoint, each and every day you live on earth is made up of choices you make which ultimately lead to an eternal destiny. After you die, it's too late to make any more choices. At that point you're going to one of two very real destinations — heaven or hell.

Let's review what we've been saying. One thing we all have in common from the outset: we were BORN. Another thing in common is that our lives end: we all DIE. THEN WHAT? This is the most crucial question any of us ever faces: our eternal destiny. But how few of us ever spend time PLANNING FOR and PREPARING for this reality that we all will face.

When we die, we either end up in heaven or in hell, for all time. The Bible leaves no doubt about this: *"Man is destined to DIE ONCE, and after that to FACE JUDGMENT"* (Hebrews 9:27). The Apostle John describes that time of judgment: *"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. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire"* (Revelation 20:12,15).

There'll be a time when EACH of us stands in front of that Judgment Throne. That's an absolute reality. NOW, while you're still breathing, you need to make the

choices that will find your name written in the Book of Life.

Too few people purposely read God's Word FOR THEMSELVES, and then DISCUSS IT and put it into PRACTICE in their own lives. Rather than trusting in the Spirit of Jesus within them, they rely on what others have told them to believe. But there are now 38,000 competing denominations preaching a myriad of different gospels and ways to get to heaven.

How do you know if YOU'VE been taught the truth? The TRUTH that will find you welcomed at the Judgment Throne?

Seek the TRUTH no matter what it costs you. God wants to be found by you! *"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1Thessalonians 5:9). If you seek the truth, you'll find Jesus.

If you seek Jesus, you'll find the Truth. He says of Himself, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6).

Put your full confidence in what God says about His own Word: *"ALL Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

In our next several video segments we'll discuss THE life choices we all must make, choices that can ultimately lead us TO Jesus. We'll look at what the Bible calls you to do so you can live and die in the TRUTH. If you DIE living by the truth of God's Word, you can be assured you'll be welcomed at the Judgment Throne. Our hope is that this ONE GOAL will spark you to make the way of the Lord YOUR way of life.

For Further Study

The Gospel of the Covenant is the Pilgrimage to Salvation