

WHY MEN MISS HEAVEN

JOB 14:14 • TV147B

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Job 14:14

“If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.”

In the 14th chapter of the Book of Job, verse 14, there is a question; Job asked the question, he says: *“If a man die shall he live again, if a man die shall he live again?”*

Now Job opens this chapter talking about death, talking about the brevity, the shortness of life. He says: *“Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”* He says again: *“Life is like a flower, it blooms for a while, (even in beauty and fragrance), but then it is cut down and it is gone.”*

He says: *“Life is like a fleeting shadow,”* frail and fragile. Then the apostle wrote: *“It’s appointed unto men once to die and after that the judgment.”*

Man will die; he will die. Every person will die. In all of the history of mankind, everybody has died with the exception of two men, just two men, and they were taken to heaven without seeing death, Enoch and Elijah. That was the only two that have not died, but you and I shall die.

Then, in verse 5 of this chapter, Job writes this: *“Man’s days are determined,”* by whom; who determines man’s days? We know who gives life; God gives life, but who determines the length of a man’s days and months and years?

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Who sets his bounds? Who determines the day of his death? Well, let's see what the Scriptures say: *"let God be true and every man a liar."* In **verse 5** Job says: *"man's days are determined; the numbers of his months are with God. God has appointed his bounds; he cannot pass."*

So what Job is writing here is that our lives are not in the hands of blind fate or chance, but the living God who gave life determines its length. The living God who gave life determines its end and the day of death.

Here's the question: *"If a man die, (he shall, and there is no doubt about that), shall he live again?"*

Well, according to the Bible, according to God's Word, man shall live again; he shall be resurrected; all men shall live again. All men shall live eternally. Some shall be resurrected, the Scripture says, *"to the resurrection of glory and life everlasting."* All the rest will be resurrected; they shall be in the resurrection of damnation, but all shall be raised.

Let's look at a few passages of Scripture:

First of all: **In Ecclesiastes 12:7** it says: *"The dust, (and he talks about man going back to the dust from whence he came); the dust shall return to the earth as it was but the spirit to God who gave it."* God said that to Adam: *"dust thou art to dust shalt thou return."*

Secondly: **In John 14; verse 1 through 3**, our Lord Jesus Christ said: *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God; believe also in me."*

"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye may be also."

There is life after this life, life on this earth and death. **In John 11:25** the Lord Jesus said: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."*

In 2 Corinthians 5:1 the apostle wrote: *"we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (or this tent, this frail tent), be dissolved, we have a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."*

You know, for generations, people have some of the hope of the resurrection, the hope of eternal life. We have hymn after hymn in our songbooks talking about eternal life:

**"When I can read my title clear
To mansions in the sky
I'll bid farewell to every fear
And wipe my weeping eye.**

**There's a land that is fairer than day
And by faith we can see it afar**

**For the father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.”**

Man shall live again. Man shall die and man shall be raised. That is what the Scripture teaches. *“If a man die, shall he live again?”* According to the Word of God he shall, either eternally in the presence of the Lord or eternally separated from the presence of the Lord in condemnation.

So, if death is so certain, and it is, and if eternity is so long, and it surely is, and if heaven is so sweet and so blessed, and so to be desired, and if hell is so terrible, and it is; then why do men miss heaven? Why do so many people perish eternally? Why do so many die without hope?

Now you think about this; these are words that you have to deal with. You may switch me off and go somewhere else but I am telling you this; these are words that you have to deal with. You have to live one life. You have got to die one death. You have got to face one judgment and you have got to hear one charge of guilt or one joyful declaration of forgiveness and then you’ve got one eternity to spend somewhere.

Now that’s important! So, we ask this question then, if this is true, why do so many people ignore this message and care nothing for it? Why do they die without any assurance, or confidence, or hope of eternal life? Let me give you some reasons: Can I give you about seven? Will your patience stay with me?

First of all: Men miss heaven because they love this present world and cannot part with it!

Men miss eternal life; they miss heaven because their hearts are set on this world and they just can’t part with it. Every time I think of that I see in my mind Esau, Esau the great hunter, Esau the man of the world.

But, he was the firstborn and had the birthright. The birthright, my friend, was a whole lot more than just a pile of money. That’s what a lot of people think of when they think of the birthright; they think that he is the firstborn son and when his daddy died everything became his.

Not necessarily! Even though he sold his birthright he became a very wealthy man, even more wealthy than Jacob. But, the birthright was the family leadership; the birthright was the priesthood of that home.

The birthright was the relationship with God that was so important. This man, whoever the firstborn happened to be, he became the spiritual leader of that tribe or the spiritual leader of that home.

Esau came in from the hunting trip and there sat Jacob eating those bowls of beans or whatever it was and he thought so little of his birthright, so little of this leadership, this spiritual leadership of that home and tribe that he sold it to his brother for that bowl of beans.

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You say: “What a fool!” Well, now be careful; what are you selling your birthright for? Huh? How much are you getting for your title to heaven? How much are you getting for your relationship with the Son of God?

I think that there are some folks selling out a lot cheaper than Esau sold out. Demas was a companion of the apostle Paul. Demas was a friend of the great apostle and finally Paul wrote of this man Demas: “*He hath forsaken me.*” Why? “*He loved this present world.*”

My friend; our Lord said: “*This is condemnation; light has come into this world (in the person of God’s beloved Son) men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.*”

Our Lord Jesus Christ said this; He told the rich, young, ruler: “*Go sell what you have (go sell your trinkets; go sell your jewels; go sell your paper money); and give it to the poor. You come and take up your cross and follow me.*”

I will tell you: this man’s riches just meant too much to him. He turned his back on the Son of God because “*he loved this present world. No man can serve two masters.*”

I know that we can use this world without abusing this world: “*for the fashion of this world fadeth away. You cannot serve God and mammon; (you cannot serve God and the world).*”

Plenty of men and women are confronted with the claims, the royal claims of King Jesus, who refuse those claims because of their love for the world and the attachments of this world. Oh, how our prayer ought to be: “*Lord; lead me to seek thee with all my heart and my affection. That word is singular; set your affection on things above.*”

That doesn’t mean that you can’t have affections for your friends, loved ones, family, wife, and children, and even for your job, whatever it might be. But, your affection is the tenor of your life and the bent of your will and the joy of your heart, the purpose of your existence: “*Set your affection on things above.*”

I will tell you why so many people miss heaven, they are just too much in love with this world, with its pride, with its fame, with its money, with its jewelry, with its attachments, with its glamour, with its so-called entertainment; they are wrapped up in it and are controlled by this world.

They walk in the flesh and “*they do mind the things of the flesh, and not the things of God.*” It just can’t be; you can’t have the Master and yet bow to another master; Christ is king. That’s the reason He said: “*If you lose your life for my sake you will gain it but if you save your life, you are going to lose it.*” That’s the first reason.

So first of all, men miss heaven; they just flat love this world and they won’t turn loose of it.

They would rather have a bowl of beans that a relationship with God almighty. That’s what they are; they are just a bowl of beans and they are all going to pass away.

You can walk into these big, fine, homes and folks like to show you their fine homes. They like to take you from room to room. When I am going along behind them and looking at all these trinkets I am saying in my heart: “God is going to burn this place down someday; God is going to burn this place down.”

They will show you all of their attainments and all of these things; God is going to burn this up too, everything. *“He that doeth the will of God shall abide forever.”*

“All flesh is grass and all the glory of man is the flower of the field. The grass withereth and the flower fadeth because the spirit of God will blow on it. But, the Word of God shall abide forever.”

Secondly: Men miss heaven because Satan blinds them to the truth of the Gospel; that’s right; Satan blinds them: *“the God of this world hath blinded them”*

Listen to **2 Corinthians 4: verses 3 and 4:** *“If the gospel be hid.”* Now, the Gospel is not hid in the sense that God covers it up so that you can’t find it. The Gospel is hid in Christ and men can’t find it because they are not looking for it in the right place.

It’s easily found when you turn your eyes on Christ. You are looking for the Gospel in the wrong place; it’s in Christ and you are looking in the pool, the waters. You are looking in the ordinances and the ceremonies and the laws.

You are looking in your churches, your denominations, and in your own heart, and to your preachers and priests and popes and all these titles, Ecclesiastical leaders. That’s not where salvation is; it is in Christ.

The reason it is hid is because we are looking in the wrong places. If you look to Christ you will find it. *“If our gospel be hid it is hid to them that perish, in whom the God of this world, hath blinded their minds, lest the glorious light of the gospel of Christ should shine unto them, (the Gospel of Christ, and they should be saved).”*

Men are blind to the true nature of sin. Paul said, and he was a very religious man, very orthodox, a theologian, but, he said: *“I didn’t know what sin was.”* That’s exactly what he said, *“I didn’t know what sin was until the law said: thou shalt not covet.”*

So many men confine sin to outward acts. Our Lord said: *“It’s not that which goeth in the mouth that defileth you, it’s that which comes out of your heart. What a man puts in his mouth goes into his belly and it is cast out in the draught.”* It can’t do it, it can’t defile his soul; it never touches his soul.

“Out of the heart proceeds murder, adultery, fornication, blasphemes and evil thoughts; that’s what defiles a man.” Men are blind to that. They are out here trying to tell people what sin is. They are telling them what the products of sin are and the results of sin.

Sin is a principle; it's a nature; it's a condition of the heart; it is born in us. It is a rattlesnake that lives in the heart and all of these things that we do outwardly are nothing in the world but fruits of that evil nature within.

A man's not a thief because he steals something; he steals because he is already a thief. It was born in his heart before his hand ever accomplished the act.

Men compare themselves with other men: *"I thank you Lord that I am not like other men."* Well, that doesn't matter! You may be better than other men. Somebody might say: "You are the finest man I know." That's just one worm bragging on another worm.

But, you compare yourself in the light of God's holiness and see how far short you fall of his glory. Folks are blind to that and there are not many people preaching it. There are not many preachers who are really fighting sin.

They are fighting the consequences of sin, the results of sin, and the products of sin. They are naming them and they are getting people to quit them and all of these things while that evil still lurks within.

On the outside we appear beautiful and on the inside *"we are full of extortion and excess."* On the outside we wear our sleeves long, and our hair long, and our faces long, and we don't do this and we don't drink, we don't smoke, we don't chew, and we don't run around with those that do.

We don't do any of these things but on the inside, God says: *"you are full of dead men's bones. You are like a whited sepulcher, clean on the outside and rotten on the inside."* God doesn't look on the outside; he looks on the inside, on the heart.

He said: *"Thou blind hypocrite; cleans first that which is within, that the outside might be clean."* Folks are blind to the true nature of sin. They are blind to the holiness of God.

God says: *"You thought I was altogether such as one as yourself."* Isaiah said: *"When king Uzziah died I saw the Lord and heard the cherubim's and seraphim's of glory crying: holy, holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of hosts."*

Do you know how holy is the Lord? *"Who shall stand in his presence? Who shall stand in his presence, he that hath clean hands and a pure heart?"* Have you got it? No sir! I need it and it can only be found in Christ.

They are blind to the Gospel of grace. They are compelled to mix works with grace. The Scripture says, *"for by grace are ye saved,"* free grace, sovereign grace. God saves men *"according to the good pleasure of his will. It's not of him that willeth; it's not of him that runneth, it's of God that showeth mercy."*

“To as many as received him, to them gave he the privilege to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his name, who were born not of blood (natural dissent), not of the will of the flesh, not of the will of men, born of God, (born from above, born of the Spirit of God).”

Salvation is by the grace of God, all of grace, *“from Alpha to Omega.”* Men are blind to that. They are blind to the sufficiency of Christ. We are complete in Christ.

Everything that a sinner needs is found in Christ. Everything that the law requires is found in Christ. Everything that justice demands is found in Christ. Everything God the Father expects is found in Christ, He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption; it's all in Him.

Oh how sadly is this truth set forth; *“the way of life, they have not known.”* Isn't that sad, the way of life? *“There's a way that seems right unto men but the end there of is death.”* Like old Naaman stood outside the little house of the prophet and cried: *“I thought, I thought.”* That's what we are doing today; *“this is what I think.”*

Why don't we turn to the Book and see what God says. Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me.”* You might say: *“I can't see that.”* I just read why you can't see it, too; *“the God of this world hath blinded their minds.”*

It's so clear: *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ Jesus. None other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. We are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold but with the precious blood of the son of God.”*

“Without the shedding of blood there's no forgiveness of sin.” I could go on the rest of the morning quoting those verses like that:

“I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved. I am the door of the sheep-fold. I am the good shepherd. I am the chief shepherd. I am the great shepherd,” Christ said.

“Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you holy, faultless, without blame, in his presence with exceeding joy. Unto Jesus Christ, the only wise God, be glory and majesty, honor, forever and ever.”

Thirdly: Men miss heaven because they refuse God's counsel, in other words, God's Word, and they refuse God's call!

Listen: In **Proverbs 1:24**, the Lord said: *“you have set at naught my counsel; you have cast it aside.”* God laid his counsel out before our very eyes and what do we do? We push it aside; we just push it aside.

We push his Word aside and get out the literature of our denomination. We push His Word aside and get out the old, hand-me-down traditions. We push His Word aside and reach and grab the old wives-fables.

“You’ve set at naught my counsel,” God said. *“I’ve called and you have refused. I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded.”* He said: *“The days coming when you will call and I won’t hear.”*

You read **Proverbs chapter 1**. God says: *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* You say: “We be not sinners; I’m not such a bad fellow. I’m not as bad as so-and-so. I’m better than a lot of people down at your church.”

You see; *“you set at naught God’s counsel.”* God says: *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* You say: “I’m not such a bad fellow.” You have just cast His counsel aside.

He said: *“Kiss the son lest he be angry.”* Fall at his feet and crown Him King of kings and Lord of lord’s.” You say: *“We will not have this man reign over us.”* *“You have set at naught my counsel.”*

He says: *“The wages of sin is death”* and we believe what Satan said instead: *“you shall not die; you shall not die.”*

We listen to our false prophets crying: *“peace, peace, when there is no peace.”* The Father said; *“All men shall honor the Son, even as they honor the Father,”* and you say: “we will not honor Christ, not supremely, not sovereignly, not preeminently. But my God says; “yes you will, you will.”

“There’s coming a day when every knee will bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

Somebody said: “Make Jesus your Lord.” It’s too late; God beat you to it. The Lord God of heaven made him Lord a long time ago. He’s every man’s Lord.

“He died that he might be Lord of the dead and of the living.” He’s Lord by decree; He’s Lord by design and He’s Lord by death; He is Lord. It’s just a matter of when you are going to confess it and where you will be when you do.

But, men are blind; they refuse God’s counsel. God in grace calls men to repentance and faith: *“come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden; I will give you rest.”*

Then, our Lord turns around and says: *“you will not come.”* The table is spread, the fountain is flowing free: there’s plenty He says; *“come for all things are ready.”*

**“Just as I am
Without one plea
But that thy blood
Was shed for me,**

**And that thy bids me
Come to thee
Oh lamb of God**

I come, I come.

**Poor, wretched, blind,
Sight, riches,
Healing of the mind
All I need in Christ to find
I come, I come.”**

Fourthly: Men miss heaven because they have a false view of God’s mercy!

God is merciful. Oh yes, God is love but men have a false view of that mercy and a false view of that love. It says here in **Deuteronomy 29:19**; “*And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, (the curse, the judgment of God upon sin), that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart.*”

“Though I do not bow to the Gospel, though I do not receive God’s Son, though I don’t have any hope of eternal life through the remission of sin; I will have peace.” That’s the imagination of his own heart.

Now, this is the pit into which most people are fallen; they think that God would just overlook sin, that God would just pass by sin and that God would just weaken sin that God would just set it aside.

My friend, listen to me: God will punish sin! He says: “*The soul that sinneth it shall surely die.*” He says: “*I will in no wise, (or by no means), clear the guilty.*”

God’s justice must be satisfied. His law must be honored and you and I can’t do it and haven’t done it and won’t do it. My only hope is that somebody will do it for us and that’s what Christ came to do.

He came into this world in the flesh. “*He took on himself, not the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham.*” As our Representative in human flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ as a man met the holy law of God and obeyed it “*in every jot and tittle*” as our Representative.

Through His obedience God has imputed to us; (that’s a big word just meaning, He reckoned it to our account; He has charged it to us, it is mine because He gave it to me), a perfect righteousness, a perfect standing, a perfect holiness before God’s law. So, God doesn’t have to compromise His law and show mercy to me.

The Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross of Calvary and there the judgment and wrath and anger of almighty God fell upon Him as He became sin for us. “*He bore our sins in his own body. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities.*”

The justice and judgment and wrath of God fell on Christ in my place and in the place of every believer. So, God can now be “*just and still justify the ungodly*” folks like us because Christ paid the debt. The debt of all our sin is paid!

Here is a judge sitting on the bench and they bring a young man before him and he is guilty of murder. The judge looks on him with compassion and love. His heart is broken for that young man. He loves him and wants to show mercy to him but he can't, the law won't let him, justice won't let him.

He occupies a place of justice and righteousness and he must punish crime. He can't set that man free. Almighty God sits on a throne of justice and righteousness and holiness and He cannot arbitrarily pass by sin, it's got to be punished.

Now then; His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who had no sin, who knew no sin, can stand in my place before the docket, stand in my place before the judge, stand in my place and take my guilt and serve my sentence and die my death and I can go free because my debt is paid. Do you see that?

At Calvary I see the love of God, *"that passeth understanding."* At Calvary I see the righteousness of God displayed, the justice of God honored and satisfied and the sinner set free. Can you see that?

You see, the Lord God just cannot pass by sin. It's a false view of God's mercy to think so. He's too holy to pass by sin without sin being punished. He can't do it my friend; He just can't do it and be God.

Read **Romans 3:19 through 26**; it shows you this truth; *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

The whole world is guilty, but there is a righteousness without the law being manifested and witnessed by the law and the prophets, manifested in the Gospel in Christ Jesus, how God can be just and justifier.

Men miss heaven because they establish a false refuge, that's right; good works is a false refuge. Church membership is a false refuge and old experiences stay old. Also baptism, whether it is put on a baby's head or an adult's body; it's a false refuge!

Our only hope of salvation is Jesus Christ and Him crucified, who fulfilled the law of God for us both in every precept and in every penalty, to enable God to be a just God and Saviour.

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Isaiah says this, *“Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”*