



What

Then

LIFE ENDS; WHAT THEN?

There is so little in life upon which one can place *positive* dependence. Life is filled with uncertainties. People say many things that are not true. Promises are made but never kept. Predictions about the future do not materialize. The most carefully planned ventures and undertakings fail. Sure-fire, can't-miss schemes backfire and fizzle out.

Our closest and most-trusted friends sometimes betray and disappoint us. When we're sitting secure with nothing to worry about, we may suddenly lose everything.

Life is filled with so many frustrations and uncertainties. One begins to wonder if there is anything that is sure or true or dependable. There is not much, that's for sure (in this life, at least) but we are not left without a few definite facts, such as:

About the Sun:

The sun will never fail to return to dispel the darkness of night;

About the Seasons:

The cold and snow of winter will always be replaced by the warmth and life-generating influence of summer, and when we see the Snowdrops and Crocuses appear, we know that spring is coming again;

About Planting Seed:

Good seed properly planted and watered will sprout and yield;

About Reproduction:

When one kind of seed is planted, it is absolutely certain that that which grows from that seed will produce the same kind of seed as was planted, and that if, for instance, corn seed is planted, there never will be a possibility of any vegetation being produced from it other than corn;

About Weeds:

Never will there be a time when there will be no weeds, and

About Death:

Something else that is *positive* is that if one is to live more than a few days he must have food and water, and, conversely, regardless of how much or how long one eats and drinks, death finally comes to end life. There is nothing about which one can be more sure than death.

And this presents two challenging questions and an interesting observation. The questions are: "What is man's destiny after death—after the heart stops and the body lies still?" And, "Is there as positive assurance as to what comes after death as there is about death itself?"

To both questions, the answer is, "Yes!" and we will find the answers as we consider the interesting observation. It is this:

All the uncertainties mentioned at the onset of this message pertain to man, and *only in the Bible* do we find statements about that which is *positive*—which has been sustained to be true by observation and experience ever

since the dawn of the human race. Let us notice a few of these Scriptural positives:

Genesis 8:22:

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

(Certainly there has been ample proof of the truthfulness of these predictions, and remember, this promise is accredited to God.)

Matthew 24:32:

Now learn a parable of the fig tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh.

(Flowers and leaves are sure harbingers of spring and summer.)

Genesis 1:11, 24:

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so... And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

(This gives assurance of stability in the procreation of life. No one need worry that corn seed will produce beans, or something else, or that the offspring of any animal [or man] will be of any other likeness than sire and dam [or parents]. And this is a *Scriptural* pronouncement.)

Genesis 3:18:

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

(This was said by God some 4000 years ago, and weeds are still being profusely produced—everywhere!)

Hebrews 9:27:

...it is appointed unto men once to die....

(This is one decree, above all others, that man would like to prove false or find a way to circumvent. And it is not because he has not tried to do this that the human race is still plagued by death. He has and still is doggedly exhausting every means to overcome death and thus prove the Biblical pronouncement untrue which declares that men must once die and that God has "appointed... bounds that he [man] cannot pass" [Job 14:5]. But death is still as sure as life. No one can deny this.)

So Life Ends; What Then?

In the light of what we've just found, to whom shall we look with confidence for the answer—to man or to God in His Word, the Bible? It seems obvious it must be to God, for when we find there is ample evidence to believe He knows what He is talking about and is able to confirm His promises and to keep His decrees irrevocable, it should not be difficult to believe whatever else He has said. So we find Him further saying:

...but after this [after death] the judgment (last part of Heb. 9:27).

What happens then? Christ plainly tells us in these words:

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory... Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal (Matt. 25:31, 34, 41, 46).

So there are those whose existence will be cut off. How is this ending of life to be avoided? Again the answer is clear. God said:

"Look unto me, and be ye saved... (Isa. 45:22). How?

1. *By confessing, as a result of convictions in our own hearts, that we are nothing and that we have nothing by which we can redeem our own souls in the eyes of God. The apostle Paul said: "... if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth con-*

cession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10: 9, 10). (See also Luke 12:8.)

Our confession must be twofold. While confessing Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we must also confess (acknowledge) our sins to God. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

The requirement to confess sin is an old one. It was explicitly required under the sacrificial dispensation when sin was committed, as is recorded in Numbers 5:7.

2. *By repenting of sin (giving evidence of being sorry for offending God)*—Mark 1: 15 and 6:12; Luke 13:3; and Acts 17:30 and 3:19. And repentance was also required in Ezekiel's time—Ezek. 14:6 and 18:30.

3. *By being baptized (immersed in water to signify the end of a sinful life)* Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:48 and 2:16, and

4. *By keeping (obeying and living according to) all God's commandments*—His rules, requirements, and instructions—Luke 1:6; John 14:21; 1 Cor. 7:19; 2 John 6; Psa. 103:17, 18; and Rev. 22:14.

Only One Way to Escape Eternal Death

We may not think that God's arrangements for us are good, and it may be thought they seem foolish. We may even be loath to comply, but the situation is just this plain: There is *absolutely no other way to escape eternal death.* The choice is ours. If we want everlasting life, during which we are told "... *there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain*" (Rev. 21:4), then we must conform to God's requirements.

But if we do not want anything better than this life has to offer, or are not interested in the wonderful things God has in store for us, we may just refuse God and His Word and religion, and not have to be bothered about it. He will not force it upon anyone.

But remember, the Bible tells us:

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him (1 Cor. 2: 9).

And why shouldn't we love Him? He loves us! How much? So much "... *that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16).

Life ends; what then? *Eternal life* if you want it—want it enough to meet God's requirements, or *eternal death* if you do not envision the eternal Kingdom of God as being worth taking time and putting forth the effort

to meet the requirements of the plan of salvation.

And also remember, no one, other than God, has been able to provide proof to support a promise of being able to open graves and to call forth to life those who have returned to dust. And since death is certain, what would any other promise amount to unless men and women could be made to live again after death?

What is *your* choice? What future do you choose after life ends—eternal bliss or eternal destruction?

(For other literature which points out Scriptures to show what response is needed to be made to insure eternal life after death, see the following listing of salvation literature. It is FREE. Write to the publishers for copies.)

OTHER FREE BIBLE TRACTS

Order for personal study or giving to others

Title	Pages each
Steps to Salvation	13
The New Birth	24
Wondrous Grace— God's Life-Saving Gift	32
The Second Coming of Christ	32
Can You Afford to Take the Chance?	16
The Ordinance of Baptism	16
The Observance of the Lord's Supper	24
Should the 7th-Day Sabbath Be Observed by Christians Today?	20
If a Man Die, Does He Still Live?	24
Palestine, Jews and Bible Prophecy	24
The Destiny of the Earth ... Destroyed or Restored?	16
The Ten Commandments	8
Has Time Been Lost?	16
A Real Love Story	4
The Return of the Jews and Jerusalem	4
About Face	10
Adam's Apple	4
Bible Baptism	4
Christmas Investigated	6
Faith and Repentance	28
Is the Bible True?	4
Jesus Is Coming Again	4
Keeping Fit Spiritually	4
Legal Advice from Heaven	8
Religious Surgery	4
The 1,000-Year Reign with Christ	8
The Punishment of the Wicked	16
	32

Order from

THE BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS

Stanberry, Missouri 64489