

Hope Part 3

I hope my eternity is secure

1997, US News and World Report survey asked people who was most likely to get to heaven.

- 79% Mother Theresa
- 66% Oprah
- 65% Michael Jordan
- 19% OJ
- #1 response: ME!

Pretty funny...people thought they deserved heaven more than Mother Theresa.

Venture capitalists, Hollywood stars, teachers and janitors will all stand on the same ground when they meet God. The cross is on level ground. When we step into eternity, it won't be about how much money we had, or how popular we were, or how much influence we had.

Check out this verse from Ecclesiastes. Some say Solomon wrote Song of Songs when he was a young man and Ecclesiastes when he was an old man.

"Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end." – Ecclesiastes 3:11

God has planted eternity in our hearts! Isn't that an incredible thought? You were made for a deeper purpose. You were created for more than this.

It's like the Transformers...there's more than meets the eye. I think deep down inside, we look around us and know that we were made for more than just paying the bills, going to school, working a job, having a house and making it through life. We've got this feeling inside, and it's uncomfortable at times, that there is more going on here. There's something beneath the service.

"The church is constantly being tempted to accept this world as her home...but if she is wise she will consider that she stands in the valley between the mountain peaks of eternity past and eternity to come. The past is gone forever and the present is passing as swift...Even if the earth should continue a million years not one of us could stay to enjoy it. We do well to think of the long tomorrow." – A.W. Tozer

We must learn to distinguish between the marginally important and the eternally important. We would probably all agree that the eternally important is more important, but the sad reality is that very few people live that way.

Here's a great determining Question: Is it going to matter 1,000 years from now? Some things that we do have eternal consequences.

The Gospel is far more important than most people realize. I believe that our church has been entrusted with a mission that has eternal significance. That's why I have personally decided to leverage my time and money towards helping us accomplish our mission.

Over the last few weeks, we've laid out some goals and plans. We believe these things really matter for eternity's sake. So now it's up to us...will we step out in faith and reorient our life towards what is eternally important.

Jesus said it like this.

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lost your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?' – Matthew 16:24-26

It won't matter much if we gain a whole lot of marginally important things but miss out on what is eternally important.