

## 22T13a When you die?

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

I have an important question for you. Are you 100% confident you know what will happen when you die? What I mean are you sure you are going to heaven. Whether you are Christian or not, many have questions about this. My wife sees this a lot at her work in the hospital. Faced with death, most people desperately cling to this life as if they are scared or at least uncertain about what happens next. If that is you, it does not have to be. You can be sure.

So, what happens when we die? We all know that we are eventually going to die. Could be this hour or years from now. We don't get to choose when or how we die. So, okay. We are going to die, but then what? What happens after we die?

**Let's pray. Heavenly Father please guide our discussion today. Help me to stay out of the way, so you can use me. We trust you and we know you have promised the wisdom we need to understand your word in the Bible. Help us to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

So okay I get it, most people don't like to talk about dying. But whether you talk about it or not, you are still going to die. We don't get to choose. So, then what?

Well, there are lots of theories and opinion. But first of all, if you are listening, I'm going to assume you believe there is a God. So, let's start there. What will God do with you when you die? Now there are several opinions out there. I want to speak about a few of them,

- Annihilation group
- Love group
- Fill-Me-Up group
- Scales of Justice group

The Annihilation group. This group thinks we either cease to exist or if I'm bad God will annihilate me when I die. Good ones to heaven, Bad ones cease to exist. In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus tells a story about a Rich Man and Lazarus. If you are not familiar with this story please read it. Basically, Jesus tells of two men that die. Lazarus goes to paradise or what is called Abraham's bosom or the heavenly banquet in some translations. But, the rich man goes to a place of torment. It does not appear that this man in the place of torment is annihilated. You can also read, Matthew 25:46, Revelation 14:11, 20:10, Daniel 12:2 and many others. Annihilation is not consistent with the scriptures. You can probably find a verse or two to try and support this, but it is not supported by all scriptures. Oh and it is not true according to Jesus.

The Love group. They say a Loving God would not send anyone to Hell. Well, all I can say is we don't get to choose how God behaves. God has to be true to His character.

Justice, Wrath, Truth are just as much God as Love is. The scriptures I listed above clearly show consequences after death. Here is one, Matthew 25:46(NKJV) *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.* Everlasting punishment does not sound like heaven. So yes, some people will not be allowed into heaven.

The Fill-me-up group. This group believes that, if I do my best, then when I die our loving father God fills us up with whatever we lack. I don't know where this concept comes from. We don't gain points by doing good, in this life, because we can't do good enough. The Bible says in Isaiah 64:6 (NIV) *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.* Another scripture is in Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do*

Everything we do is like filthy rags compared to God's righteousness. And Paul states it clearly, we are saved by grace, we don't do good works to get to heaven. But we have been created to do good works in God's name. You can also check out Romans Chapter 3 & 10 for more on this theme.

So, Annihilation is not biblical, Love group perspective is not biblical, the Fill-Me-Up group perspective is not biblical. So, what about our last group. The Scales of Justice group. This group believe based on your choices in this life you go to Heaven or Hell. Sometimes people in this group will say if my good outweighs my bad then God will let me into heaven. This scales of justice concept is definitely not in the bible. Remember the two scriptures we just read. Not by works lest we boast. Our good can never outweigh our bad.

Let's take a moment to talk about why that is. God is holy, He is pure. Sin is impurity, things that are against God. God hates sin. God is so powerful that if we are impure in His presence we would be destroyed. The only way we can be with God is if we are faultless or pure. Now there is no way any of us can be this way on our own. It's like rotten or spoiled food, a little rotten is still rotten. Yes, others might be more rotten than us, but rotten is rotten. A little rotten is still rotten or spoiled.

So okay, none of these seem to adequately explain what happens to us after we die. So what does happen after we die? What does the Bible actually say? I'm going to read a couple for you. First, Hebrews 9:27-28 (NKJV) *Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

Die once then face judgement. Everyone will face judgement, there are no exceptions. What we say, do and think matters to God. But Jesus sacrificed His life for ours. He

paid the price our sin demands, but we only get that forgiveness if we repent. Repent meaning we stop doing what God does not like, we turn back to God's way of living. And when we fail, we repent and again turn back to God. Always focusing on Jesus, waiting on Jesus who brings our salvation, but only to those who are waiting for him. I would add eagerly waiting for God.

I'd also like to read from Romans 2:1-16 (NKJV) *Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.*

Again, according to our deeds, repentance from sin then doing the things God wants us to do. We don't work our way to heaven. We trust our way to heaven by following the King of king and Lord of lords, King Jesus.

**Father God, thank you for giving us the resources and sources to answer these tough questions. we know you know all things. Thank you for guiding our process and giving us the wisdom, we need to understand and help us to be satisfied if you choose not to explain. Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. Help us to open the Bible and look into history to answer our questions. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen**

Let me leave you with this today. What happens when you die? Well one of two things, you go to be with Jesus, or you are eternally separated from God. Separation from God means, separation from all of God's beauty and goodness, isolated without anything nice. And it is not about what we do, it is about who we serve. There is a choice to be made. Jesus or not Jesus. We will talk about this next time.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join me for the rest of our series Assurance. See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.