

22T13b the Choice

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-on to this life as if they are scared or at least uncertain about what happens next. Is that you? It does not have to be. You can be sure.

Last time we talked about what happens when we die. We discovered that there are two options with God or without God. One place continually with God and all His goodness and beauty, the other outside of the presence of God without all His goodness. Without God is described as a place of torment. Now for the Choice.

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.

Okay, Heaven or Hell, right? According to Ephesians, we live once then face judgement. Do you want to face God with your version of righteousness or with the righteousness of Jesus?

I want to say something. I know a lot of people have different versions of this. Some say a loving God would never send people to Hell and that's true but if we don't choose Heaven with God, then Hell is the only other option. Now I'm using the word Hell today to represent, that place without God.

So why do we want to go to Heaven and not Hell? Now there are no promises heaven is anything like the pleasure factory some talk about. Heaven in the bible gives no indication of the pleasure factory although I'm sure it's amazing. But it is the constant amazing presence of God that makes it so. All of His goodness and beauty. But understand heaven is a place where God's presence is everywhere. If you don't want to be around God and Godly people now, why do you think you'd want it when you are dead.

My wife Judy, says it's like having a rich uncle, if you live with the rich uncle you get to experience all the things at the rich uncle's house, the pool, the food, the house, the cars, you get the picture. But what if you hate the uncle, you can't stand to be around the uncle. Would you still want to live in his house, when the uncle is always around? You hate being around him, so no matter how nice the place is I bet you would not like being there very long.

Or what about this scenario. Say you think you want to go to heaven when you die. Okay, I can understand that. But you don't want anything to do with God here on earth. Or maybe, you are angry with God. You live doing things you know God hates. You avoid being with Godly people, serving others in God's name. You just do your thing, without any real thought about God. Well, why would God let you move in with Him after you die? You can think of it this way. Pick the richest person you know of, an athlete, actor, famous person. Okay they are worth Billions. Got the image in your head? Now image knocking on their door and telling them you are a great person, so you deserve to move in with them. How do you think that would go? You can bet that person would say something like this, Who are you, I don't know you, get out of here or I'll call the police. Right, that's what you would do in their place. So, why do we think God will be different and let you into heaven. In fact, this is exactly what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV) *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

And I know, some of you are going to say. I'm being too harsh. There are many ways to heaven. Why do I think it is either Jesus or not Jesus? Well okay think about it for a moment. Say, you know someone that has a really amazing vacation home in the mountains. They tell you to come for a visit. Great! But when the owner tries to give you directions, you say I'll find my own way there. No Mobile phone towers, no satellite positioning, no address. How do you expect to find the place without following the owners' directions? Sounds really arrogant doesn't it. What are the chances you can find the place without the directions? Probably zero. So why do we think we will find heaven doing things our own way?

So, I hope you get it. There is a choice. It is yours to choose. But this is like an open book test, with only one question and everything in the book gives you the correct answer. The choice is simple Jesus or not Jesus. No middle ground. You can't say, well on Sunday mornings sometimes, or when it's convenient I choose Jesus. No there are no partial or parttime Christians. You are simply either in the group that say, "yes Jesus" or you are not.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

When we choose Jesus, we become a new creation in Christ. We are reconciled to God because of Jesus. Jesus gives us His righteousness. Righteousness means, we

are made right with God by what Jesus did for us. All we need to do is make the choice to trust and follow Jesus. We repent from the things we have been doing that are against God and return to God. We return to the way God wants us to live.

Surrender all you have and are to Jesus, Let Jesus be in charge of your life. Say yes to Jesus, then leave the rest up to Him. Do the things you are urged to do by Jesus. Serve Jesus by serving others in His name. Love Jesus by loving others the way He loves them.

Father God, thank you for making a way for us to be near you. There is a choice. You have promised to reveal yourself to us. So I pray for all the listener, that they may allow you to come into their lives and reveal the importance of choose you Lord. Thank you for guiding our process and giving us the wisdom, we need. 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

One last thing before I let you go today. Life is full of choices. But unlike all the other choices we make in life, This choice is THE CHOICE. The choice that determines what our eternity looks like. Don't fool yourself, you either choose Jesus or you don't. Not making a choice is a choice, like it or not. We only live once then face judgement. Do you want Jesus on your side or against you? I choose Jesus because I know I need help and who else should we call on for help. I choose Jesus, I choose to work at living the way He wants me to live. I choose to work at treating others the way Jesus wants them treated. I trust God. I choose Jesus. Next time we will talk about how we live once we've made this choice.

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