

Some Thoughts on our Final Experience (What do you think?)

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1. To be out of touch with reality is mental illness. When we think about it with even a little honesty, we discover we all have a fatal family disease called death. Every one of our ancestors, years back, has died. Certainly we will not be an exception. To avoid thinking about this is the height of dysfunctional foolishness. Let's face it. Life is short and the time after living goes on forever. Some people die young, some die old, but time marches on. What if there is on-going personal experience after this life.
2. We could end this uncomfortable discussion here by saying, "Bologna! When I'm dead I'm dead. Why think about it? There is no more." In this way we can avoid reality. Here we need to be reminded, choosing to believe or disbelieve, does not create reality. Our choice of belief does not change anything. What is, is. What isn't, isn't, in spite of our desired belief. If a Christian is wrong, he'll never know it. If an atheist is wrong, he'll know it forever. What a shock that must be. To this we could add, even if a Christian were wrong, it's a good bet he'll have a happier life. Without a Creator with a purpose for us, life is meaningless and we are worthless.
3. Assuming we have a Creator who made us on purpose. Now we humans have worth and dignity. There is a purpose to our life. Now it makes sense that such a Creator would reveal His plan, and our destiny. This is where Christianity comes in as the fullness of the Creator's revelation to us humans. Why are we here for such a short time? Where are we meant to go from here? What if we don't make it? What's the default destiny?
4. Some wise teachers say only a few make it to heaven. Other equally wise men tell us a God of Love would not allow His creations to go to hell. Again remember, just saying it one way or the other does not create the reality, even for theologians. We do know, God has invited all of us to heaven, but He has also revealed the possibility of eternal hell. What is our part in our eternal agenda? Maybe there is a chance we can squeak into heaven and escape eternal hell without so much effort or radical faith simply because God loves us. But then, do we really want to take even the slightest chance of missing our final goal?
5. Even considering life today, where is the best bet for happiness and fulfillment? Is it money? Sports? Sex? Popularity? Education? Etc.

etc. etc.? Or should we look at our Designer and Maker and the purpose He has for us? Do you know He designed and gifted you individually from scratch. God made you, specifically for a unique assignment in His plan that only you have the gifts necessary to fulfill? Let's consider carefully whether or not our only real chance for fulfillment and happiness in this world is in living out the purpose for which we are made. How important is it to follow our Manufacturer's directions?

6. In heaven, everyone will be perfectly happy according to their individual capacity. Here on earth we stretch or shrink our capacity. In heaven, Jesus has prepared many different dwellings. Some are tents and some are mansions. All of us working for heaven spend our earth time building with Jesus. This is the meaning of faith in Jesus and what He did and does for us.
7. Heaven is unity with our perfect Creator. Nothing imperfect can be part of Perfect God or He would no longer be perfect and this is impossible. On sinful earth, only the God-Man Jesus is perfect. Only Jesus can get to heaven. We get there by being part of His Mystical Body, the Church. Church is God's invention, not ours. This saving Church-Body is only possible because God in Jesus became one of us and suffered and died for our sins. He rose from death and never died again. He is visibly present among us in visible Church and Sacrament. He does this by sending His life, the Holy Spirit upon us who are visibly gathered as His Body the Church.
8. Keep always in mind, on Judgment Day we will each stand naked, with all our sins exposed, before Perfect God and the whole assembly of angels and saints, and our ancestors in heaven. What a painful shame that must be, even in the joy of squeaking into heaven.
9. Remember, salvation is a process that takes place during earthly life. Now is our only chance to respond. Earth is basic training for the Eternal Kingdom our Creator has prepared for us. It's everlasting folly to be AWOL now.
10. As Christians, especially Christian parents, even if we have a confident hope of heaven for ourselves, there is an unbearable kink in our joy over our concern that even one of our loved ones may be absent in our eternity with God. This is the main object of our prayer and the root of evangelism.