

WITNESSES FOR JESUS – 3

APRIL 14, 2024

REVIEW:

- **ACTS 1:8** Jesus left us here to be His witnesses (martyrs).
- A witness provides evidence based on what he's seen, heard, experienced.
- He's confident, bold, and willing to die for the cause.
- **MT. 10:28, 32** Confessing Christ as a Jew could cost you your life.

CONTINUE:

Temporal vs Eternal

1 COR. 7:31 NLT, 1 JOHN 2:15-17 NLT

Paul warned against getting too comfortable in this world. John agrees. What they both were saying is we're just passing through what is temporal and rapidly heading toward what is eternal. It's time to shift our thinking from what is temporal to what is eternal. This little portion of time on Earth is nothing more than a tiny speck compared to our eternal existence. We're all in the valley of decision.

Our Motivation – LUKE 16:19-31

Wouldn't it be nice to see beyond this realm into the unseen realm and get a look at what is "eternal" is all about? Jesus thought so too!

- 1.) This is not a parable. Jesus pulls back the curtain to give us a picture of what life looks like beyond the grave.
- 2.) Recognition. They knew each other by name and appearance.
- 3.) Memory. He knew he had five brothers that needed witnessed to.
- 4.) Feelings. Lazarus felt comfort, the rich man unending pain.
- 5.) Problem-solving thoughts. "Send Lazarus back to be a witness".
- 6.) Regret. **MT. 16:24-26** His concern for his brothers reveals his regrets.
- 7.) Justice. They both made their choice.
- 8.) Answers.
 - A.) God's word is sufficient to find salvation.
 - B.) Not even a resurrection sign will convince the reluctant.

Our Resurrection – DAN. 12:1-3 NKJV

Jesus is the hope of our glory. The first Adam brought shame by removing our covering of glory by his sin. The last Adam restores man's lost glory by His obedience and sacrifice. By accepting Christ, we qualify to be resurrected to a state of glory beyond our comprehension (**COL. 1:27-29 KJV, NLT**). Those who lead others to Christ will shine as the stars of Heaven and share in Christ's glory!

Two Judgments

- 1.) The Great White Throne Judgment (**REV. 20:11-15**). Imagine the scene as the one assigned to find the name of the one being judged in the Book of Life thumbs through the pages. What's your name "Pharaoh"? How do you spell that? Not here!
- 2.) The Judgment Seat of Christ (**Bema, 2 COR. 5:1-4, 10 NLT**). This judgment determines our rewards, not our salvation.
 - A.) **1 COR. 3:13-20 NLT** This little time we spend on Earth will determine the quality of our eternal existence.
 - B.) **MT. 10:42** Jesus didn't make it hard. By serving, helping, encouraging, forgiving, teaching, and praying for others, we get rewarded.
 - C.) Leading others to Christ seems most important.

Conclusion:

Our life on Earth is short, but it will determine where we spend our eternity, and the quality of our eternal existence. It's time to get eternity on our minds.