

Our soul needs a future

**Isaiah 40: 6-8**

**Ecclesiastes 3: 9-15**

# Ready for some real change?

- Am I planted in the right location ?

Desert – put trust in man

By the water – put trust in God

- Willing to let God search my heart and put my complete trust in Him to change me ?
- Willing to invite 2-3 godly friends to speak into my life (be totally honest and speak things I may not want to hear) ?

# How's your soul?

- “hardened” soul ?
- “shallow” soul which shrivels up under adversity ?
- “cluttered” soul, choked or pulled in all directions by competing desires ?
- “fruitful” soul, where God's Word has taken root deeply in your heart ?

# People are like grass & flowers

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass, and  
all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever.”

(Isaiah 40: 6-8)

# God's message to His people

- People are temporary
- My Word endures forever

# Not a popular truth

- All people are like grass
- Look around. True or not true?
- ... that's why our soul needs a future

# The soul needs a future

■ “ [God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; ”  
(Ecclesiastes 3: 11)

■ Grass and other living things don't think about the future

■ They will die and this doesn't bother them

■ But we are different

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.  
(Gen. 2: 7)

So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them. (Gen. 1: 27)

- God created us for Himself
- He created us for eternity; not simply for time
- We long to live forever



Since we are created for an eternal  
existence with God ...

- what would be one of the most important thing  
in this life ?
- Prepare well for the life that's coming

# How do we prepare for the future?

- First deal with the “sin” problem that brought death into our world
- The Fall of Adam & Eve (Gen. 3: 1-7)

# Learn from their tragic fatal choice

- Couldn't resist what had been clearly forbidden by God
- Wanted to be like God
- Lived like the “here and now” is all there is
- Disobeyed God and brought death into our world – physical death and spiritual death

# Judgment / Redemption

“And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.” (Gen. 3: 15)

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam  
and his wife and clothed them. (Gen. 3: 21)

- Isaiah: “All flesh is like grass ..., but the word of our God stands forever.”
- John: “The Word became flesh and made his home among us.”

Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. (1 Cor. 15: 22; NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Rom. 6: 23; NLT)

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# Jesus came to reverse the curse ...

- only for all who will *believe* in him

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ...

There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.” (John 3: 16, 18; NLT)

# Why is believing so crucial ?

- Because the fall of Adam and Eve was due to their failure to believe in God



# Preparing for our future

- Deal with the “sin” problem that brought death into our world
- Let the inevitability of death and the eternal nature of our soul prepare us well for forever
- “Believers don’t fear leaving this life; they are prepared for it.” - David Edwards

# Misconceptions about what happens after death

- Everybody gets in
- You die, and it's over
- You get to do it all over again (reincarnation)
- Good people go to heaven; bad people go to hell

■ David Edwards, “What Happens When I Die?”  
NexGen; 2004

# What happens after death according to God's Word ?

- Sinners who come to Jesus' cross for forgiveness and salvation go to heaven; good people who think they do not need Jesus as their Savior and Lord go to hell

# Judgment for every soul

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.  
(Hebrews 9: 27-28)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5: 10)

# The challenge of doing “good”

- lies not in the “big” and “important” decisions we make
- lies in the “ordinary” and “little” things of life
- “We live in little moments, so the character of our relationships is not set in three or four big moments, but in ten thousand little moments of life.”

- Paul D. Tripp

# Final Judgment brings comfort

- All accounts will be settled; every wrong will be made right
- Final justice for everyone

# Final Judgment serves as a warning

- Moral alarm system for followers of Jesus Christ
- “If there were no such thing as failing, then passing wouldn’t make any difference.”
- “Please don’t forget that someday you will stand before my throne to give an account.”

# Preparing for our future

- Deal with the “sin” problem that brought death into our world
- Let the inevitability of death and the eternal nature of our soul prepare us for forever
- Embrace God’s grace until forever is our final home



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1: 3-5)



So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful  
and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.  
Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky  
and over every living creature that moves on the  
ground.” (Gen. 1: 27-28)

- Created to have a “forever” relationship with God
- Created to have a relationship with others
- Created to subdue and rule over the rest of God’s creation





