

WHEN YOU DIE!!

by Bruce Roberts

Imagine for a moment, friend, that you have just collapsed. A loved one find you and calls for help, but it's too late. Your body is cold and lifeless. Plainly speaking, you're dead! At your funeral friends said, well at least he didn't suffer. If they only knew!

Actually the very moment your heart stopped beating your soul the conscious part of you that never dies, was literally ripped from your body, and in Hell you opened your eyes, being in torments. (Luke 16:19-31) Reality sinks in. Could you really be in hell? You never believed that there was a place called Hell. And besides, what great crime did you commit?

As panic sets in, you find yourself screaming out to the very God you've denied your whole life, begging that he would send relief from the tormenting flames. He tells you, however, that there is a great gulf fixed between which none may pass from the place of torment to the place of glory.

A sickening fear grips you. Could this awful torment truly last forever? Could you really be guilty? You begin to reason that nobody had ever shared with you the way of salvation before, or told you of the penalty for rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. You are then reminded of a time when you slammed the door on a gentleman from the local church who came by to speak with you concerning your soul. If only you would have listened to his simple gospel message.

Your thoughts now turn to your family. You beg God to send someone to warn your loved ones, less they also come to this terrible place of torment. God answers you, "...they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." (Luke 16:29) But you plead... if someone would just go back from the dead and warn them, then they would surely believe. Again God's answers, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." (Luke 16:31)

After suffering in Hell for what seemed like forever, you feel a slight relief. It seems now that you are being released from this place of torment. You're so glad it's over! But wait... What is this place? It resembles a giant courtroom. You've never seen so many people before. You shield your eyes from the brightness of the One who sits on the throne. His glory fills the arena. There are multitudes with him, dressed in white, assisting with the books and records. One by one you see others like yourself being called to the bench. Even now one is on his knees pleading for mercy. The books are opened. But his name is not found in the Lamb's Book of Life. GUILTY! is the decree.

In the distance you hear horrifying screams as others are cast alive into the burning Lake of Fire. Suddenly your name is called. You humbly approach the bench and fall to your knees. You beg and plead for mercy,

but find none! There is no mercy here, no forgiveness. The great era of grace and mercy have passed. It is only now that you realize you could have avoided all of this by simply believing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ during your lifetime. But you chose not to receive the greatest gift of all, the gift of Salvation that God freely offers to "whosoever will." You friend, are without excuse!!

In a moment you hear that your name cannot be found in the Lambs Book of Life. Again the verdict echoes out...GUILTY!! You kick and scream and gnash your teeth for pain. As you are being led away to the burning Lake of Fire you catch a glimpse of the Devil - Satan himself. He too is awaiting eternal damnation. He doesn't look so victorious now does he? It's hard to imagine that you allowed him to deceive you all of those years on Earth. Remember how he made you laugh and mock at the story of the Lord Jesus Christ dying on the cross for your sins. He is actually attempting to deceive you even now as you read this message. Those thoughts of unbelief are his.

Being consumed in a fire would be terrible enough, but having to endure it throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity is incomprehensible. You will be there alone. Contrary to popular belief, your "friends" won't be coming over to have a good time with you. It's over for you, and then again, it's just beginning. Imagine, after you've been there for one million years it will seem like the very first day. Do you understand that friend?

Believe it or not there is only ONE way to avoid the above scenario. Becoming a religious person, attending church and giving of your time and resources will not help you escape the Lake of Fire that now await you. So how can you escape so great a salvation? I'm glad you asked. Keep reading:

The Bible says in Romans 3:10 that, "there is none righteous no not one." Romans 3:23 says that, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." In other words we can forget about ever being good enough to enter Heaven. In Romans 5:12 we read of the origin of sin, "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Adam was the first man. His disobedience to God brought the curse of sin upon us all. We are all born sinners. ALL have sinned.

In Romans 6:23 we read, "The wages of sin is death..." This means just what it says. A wage is something that is earned, like a paycheck. Thus God owes death to everyone that has ever been born into this world, as all are sinners. Not just physical death, but a "second death" as well. Revelation 20:14 says, "And death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire, this is the second death."

Back in Romans 6:23 we also read that, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ Our Lord." Can a gift Be earned? No, of course not. It is free with absolutely no strings attached. How then do we receive this free gift of eternal life?

The Bible says in Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Dear friend if you would like to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and have a home in Heaven with Him one day, you first must realize that you are a condemned sinner with no hope of redeeming yourself. You then must simply believe the gospel message: "...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

You can call on him right now! Pray a simple but sincere prayer from your heart... similar to the one below. (There is nothing magical about reciting a prayer. God knows the sincerity of your heart.) Pray something like this: "Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner. I believe here and now that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me to pay my sin debt and I hereby now accept him as my Savior. Thank you Lord for saving me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

Friend, if you prayed that prayer from your heart, God saved you just then. His Word is true. He cannot lie. I am so glad that you made this decision today. You will NEVER regret it!