

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

October, 2021

Eternity-Death is Not Final

ETERNITY

Most people have some difficulty grasping the meaning of the words unending, forever, everlasting, infinite, without time, without ending, or eternity. Jesus spoke about eternal life in many ways. He invited people to the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven, a spiritual reward, an inheritance, a place prepared in advance for those who love Him. It was hard for the disciples and others to really understand the meaning of His words. He used many examples such as the Treasures in Heaven:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures in earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy; and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus was teaching people to focus their lives on spiritual treasures stored in heaven, not material wealth or social status. Many people walked away from His teaching, not understanding it or finding it too difficult to give up the earthly treasures. Like those listening to the teaching of Jesus, each one of us makes decisions about how to live, what is important to pursue, where our treasure lies. God has given us the freedom of choice.

I confess, I have made some bad decisions that have resulted in turning points in my life. One was while at college my freshman year; I

decided not to apply myself to studying and learn chemistry. In my defense it was a difficult class, designed to sort out the serious and not serious students. I was eager to learn, just not chemistry. The consequence of my decision was a chemistry grade of “D” which automatically dropped me from the university nursing program. My chosen career as a nurse was over before it began.

Our decisions have eternal consequences. Death is not final. Our life choices determine where we will spend eternity; in the Kingdom of God or in hell as described by Jesus in Luke 16:19-31. This day can be a turning point for people who want to seek Jesus and leave a self-fulfilling, godless life behind. Jesus does not want anyone to perish but all to accept the gift of salvation. God invites all of us to follow Him, to live a life of love with Jesus as God intended life to be for all people. Jesus can rescue each person. He rescued me from a life of sin and broke the bondage of my selfish life.

The Good News or Gospel is that Jesus came, taught, healed, blessed, forgave, died and was resurrected for His workmanship, us, to be saved. We are called to submit and commit to Jesus as the Son of God, to seek the gift of salvation as given by the Grace of God not through acts or deeds. We choose to receive Jesus as our Savior.

(Continued on next page)

The Apostle Peter describes this receiving of Jesus and rebirth with Him:

“Now that you have purified yourself by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply from the heart. For you have been born again...through the living and enduring word of God.”

1 Peter 1:22-23

As a Christ Follower we live a life to be found worthy of His Heavenly Kingdom. We have many promises of an eternal life with God in heaven. Here are a few of His promises.

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” *Matthew 25:34*

“Faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.” *Titus 3:7*

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” *1 John 5:11*

Our time on earth is limited. We were created by God having nothing when we were born and have nothing when we die, but we have those priceless treasures stored up for us in heaven. Our thoughts, decisions and actions have eternal consequences. Consider what is in store for those of us who have received Jesus, lived a life according to His will, with glory and honor to Him who gave His life for us. What a glorious day when we see Jesus face to face!

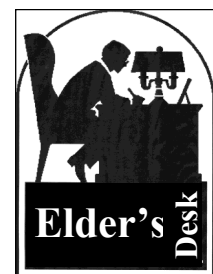
This song, Victory in Jesus, offers a beautiful picture of where Followers of Christ will spend eternity.

I heard about a mansion, He has built for me in glory,
And I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea.
About the angels singing and the old redemption story
And some sweet day I'll sing up there,
the Song of Victory.



We can rejoice in Jesus, knowing if we remain faithful and true, we can experience the presence and joy of seeing Jesus, worshiping Him in Heaven, singing with ten thousand times ten thousand angels, seeing our loved ones in Heaven and nevermore experiencing pain or suffering. What a glorious day that will be! Christ has overcome the world and death. We know that with Jesus there is victory. The life with Jesus in Heaven for eternity is awaiting His followers.

Giving God the Glory, Nona



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TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is now open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

Visit us at: **www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org**



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held September 1st, 2021

Prayer and Devotion

"He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his spirit. Ephesians 2: 17-22

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,882.10, Giving \$12,424.56, Expenses \$13,965.46, Faith Promise \$4,575

Worship & Prayer: There was Wednesday Worship on August 25 at the Jacob home. There was dinner, singing, and a discussion about the spiritual aspect of fellowship. The next Wednesday Worship will be Sept. 22 at the Sterkel home.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Sunday morning Adult Bible study will be led by John Gryparis who will teach about "Perplexing Scriptures" at 9:30 am. The annual picnic will be held Sunday, Sept. 12 outdoors.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Sam Jacob continues to offer grief counseling prior to the Senior Luncheon on Sundays. Please contact him for time together. Cards, flowers and encouraging words are delivered or sent to our church family.

Outreach & Missions: The second Saturday Senior Luncheon will be Sept. 11. The luncheons will be held indoors. There may be a missions trip to the NICE Foundation in the near future.

Stewardship & Support Services: The team is working to repair the A/C unit on the office side of the church. They are monitoring the needs of the building and continue to ask people to stay after the church service on Sundays, to help clean the church which enables the church to spend valuable resources on other building projects.

New and Old Business

- The Church of God Illinois Youth Convention will be held November 5, 6 and 7 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL. At the same location the General Assembly will meet on Saturday Nov. 6th. Any families and youth interested in attending the convention please see the website: www.illinoiscog.org or Pastor Pete.
- On Oct. 10 Diane Sergeant will be the guest speaker and we will celebrate Pastor Appreciation after Worship Service in the narthex.

ADDENDUM QSEHRA FOR 2022 Tim Kasza moved to approve the letter for the HRA amount of \$6,000. Ted Gehman seconded the motion and it passed.

Next Elders meeting, Oct. 6th

Eternity

What is it really like?

What must we do to attain it?

Sunny Place Church – October Events

2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon
Saturday, October 9th, 11:30 am



Sunny Place Church

Free for Seniors +55, register at 630/398-2314



Sunday, October 31st

We are going to have a Hymn Request during Worship, the last Sunday of every month. Please let Effie know your favorite song from our church hymnals.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"Perplexing Biblical Passages"

A study of difficult Scriptures of the Bible.

Led by John Gryparis

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



**"Instruction for Leaders
of the Church"**

A Study of the Pastoral Letters of Paul

Led by Pastor Pete

7:00 p.m. On Zoom only

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times. If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you. You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.