

## **“LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE”**

### **1 Timothy 6:6-12**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. A young man had just graduated from high school and was talking to his grandfather.**
  - a. “What are your plans now?” his grandfather asked.**
  - b. “To go to college to prepare for a career,” the young man replied.**
  - c. “And what then?” his grandfather asked.**
  - d. “Find a good paying job with lots of benefits,” the boy replied.**
  - e. “And what then?” the old man inquired.**
  - f. “I’ll probably start my own business,” said the young man.**
  - g. “And what then?” his grandfather wanted to know.**
  - h. “I’ll make lots of money and retire and enjoy life,” he answered.**
  - i. “And what then?” the elderly gentleman asked.**
  - j. “Well, I guess I’ll grow old and die,” stammered the youth.**
  - k. “And what then?” the old man asked.**
  - l. The young man had no answer!**
- 2. Paul warned Timothy that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim. 6:9,10).**
- 3. The majority of people are caught up in a pursuit of worldly things.**
  - a. They give little thought to what lies beyond this brief life.**
  - b. Jesus’ story of the rich farmer illustrates that “a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of things which he possesses” (Luke 12:13-21).**
  - c. The wise use their brief time on earth to prepare for the endless life to come.**
- 4. Let us note four things about life.**

#### **Discussion:**

- I. LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD.**
  - A. God created man “in His own image” (Gen. 1:27).**
    - 1. This is not said of the animals.**
    - 2. Man and animals share physical life.**
    - 3. Man has an aspect to his existence animals do not have.**
  - B. The image of God which man shares is his spirit.**
    - 1. The spirit is the thinking, conscious part of man that lives on when the body dies (Eccl. 12:7; Zech. 12:1; Jam. 2:26).**
    - 2. This is the aspect of our lives which should be of the greatest concern (Matt. 16:26).**

## **II. LIFE ON EARTH IS VERY SHORT.**

- A. When he was 130, Jacob thought his days had been “few and evil” (Gen. 47:8,9).**
- B. Job said: “Man who is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and is cut down. He flees also as a shadow and does not continue” (Job. 14:1,2).**
- C. James warns that we must take God into consideration when we make plans (Jas.4:13-15).**
- D. We must “number our days” for they are few (Psa. 90:1,2; 9-12).**

## **III. ETERNITY FOLLOWS THE JUDGMENT.**

- A. The parable of the sheep and the goats tells a day of Judgment is coming (Matt. 25:31-46).**
  - 1. The wicked will go into everlasting punishment.**
  - 2. The righteous will go into eternal life.**
  - 3. The words for “everlasting” and “eternal” are the same.**
  - 4. Hell will last as long as Heaven and Heaven as long as Hell.**
- B. How long is eternal?**
  - 1. “Long” suggests time, but eternity is the absence of time.**
  - 2. We can’t “spend” eternity for it never ends.**
  - 3. The earth is 25,000 miles in circumference; suppose it were a solid steel ball; suppose a small ant crawled around the earth once every 1,000 years; the time it would take to wear the earth’s surface away would not even be the beginning of eternity.**
  - 4. John Newton’s beloved “Amazing Grace” says: “When we’ve been there 10,000 years, bright shining as the sun; We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.”**

## **IV. THERE ARE ONLY TWO PLACES TO BE IN ETERNITY.**

- A. Hell is the place of eternal punishment.**
  - 1. It was created for the Devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41).**
  - 2. It is described as everlasting fire (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 21:8).**
  - 3. It is a place of outer darkness (Matt. 25:30; Jude 13).**
  - 4. It is a place of pain and torment (Matt. 25:30; Rev. 14:11).**
  - 5. The worst people who have ever lived will be there.**
  - 6. There is no hope in Hell!**
- B. Heaven is the place of eternal life.**
  - 1. In Heaven we are “at home with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:6).**
  - 2. Our citizenship is in Heaven (Phil. 3:20, 21).**
  - 3. There are no tears, death, sorrow, or pain (Rev. 21:4).**

4. It is a place of rest (Rev. 14:13).
5. The Father, Son, Spirit, and holy angels will be there.
6. The best people who have ever lived will be there.

**Conclusion:**

1. “There’s a great day coming, a great day coming by and by,  
When the saint and the sinner shall be parted right and left.  
Are you ready for that day to come?”  
  
“There’s a bright day coming, a bright day coming by and by’  
But its brightness will only come to those who love the Lord.  
Are you ready for that day to come?”  
  
“There’s a sad day coming, a sad day coming by and by,  
When the sinner shall hear his doom, “Depart, I know you not.”  
Are you ready for that day to come?”
2. Are you ready for the Judgment Day?
3. If not, please allow us to help you.
4. Begin your journey today:
  - a. Believe in the Son of God (John 8:24).
  - b. Repent of all your sins (Luke 13:3).
  - c. Confess your faith in Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9, 10).
  - d. Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
5. If you started the journey to Heaven, but have been sidetracked, you can get back on track:
  - a. Repent of your sins (Acts 8:22).
  - b. Confess your sins (1 John 2:1,2).
6. Lay hold on eternal life!