

**Intro: Do you know what will happen to you after you die?**

Many different views

Some say nothing – worm food

Some say reincarnation (Hindus and Buddhists)– that we come back time and time again, and what we come back as or in what circumstances we come back is as a direct result of our actions. Karma - generous in this life, come back as a wealthy person in the next life.

Others say heaven or hell (Muslims, Jews and Christians)

Rather important question to know the answer to, don't you think? Two reasons: Big implications on how you live now, and even bigger implications on your life after death (if there is one).

Yet lots of people in Australian society today haven't thought about this question much. Or if they have, they haven't tried to work out which view is correct. Just hoping that everything will work out in the end, or have bought the lie that you can't know for sure so you shouldn't bother trying to work it out.

It would be good to know for sure wouldn't it? To know as best as anyone can know anything exactly what is going to happen to you after you die. It would impact hugely the way that you live your life and also your hope for the future.

Reason I raise this is b/c in the passage we just had read to us, the Apostle John says that the reason he is writing this part of his letter is:

V13 - I write these things to you who believe in name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

By eternal life he means life after death, life that goes on forever with God in heaven.

**What is John saying?**

Two things:

1. There is life after death, and it is either with God in heaven or without God in hell.
2. The only way to get to heaven is to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Who is this Son of God that he is talking about?

Son of God – Title for Jesus – God's son – God in human form. Also in v5.

V1 – Christ – another title for Jesus – Christ/Messiah – one prophesied in the OT to come as the King and Saviour of God's people.

John is saying that the only way to have eternal life – life that goes on forever with God in heaven, is to believe in Jesus/put your trust in him.

## **Why is it all about Jesus?**

Jesus dies and rises again to take the penalty for our rejection of God – 1:7-10, 3:16.

**7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

God created us

All of us have sinned – rejected God, even though he created us

Punishment for this is death and eternal separation from God – hell

**BUT** – God loves us so much that he sent his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. When Jesus died on the cross he took all of God's anger and punishment for our sins. He paid the price for our rejection of God.

**SO** – if we put our trust in Jesus as our Saviour and make him our Lord, all our sins are paid for and we are sure of going to heaven when we die.

This is the message of Christianity – this is what John is writing to remind his readers about.

## **How do we know John is telling the truth?**

But how do we know that John is telling the truth? How do we know that there really is a heaven and hell, and Jesus is the way we get to go to heaven rather than hell?

a) Historical Evidence

V6 – Jesus came by water and blood.

Water means his baptism, blood means his death. Start and end of his ministry whilst he was here on earth. So by the life and death of Jesus, we can know that he came to pay the penalty for our sins bring us back into a right relationship with God.

These are real life, historical events we are talking about here. Not a story someone made up to inspire people or teach them a lesson. If Jesus didn't really live, die and rise again then Christianity is a lie and believing in Jesus will not get you to heaven when you die.

But John says that Jesus was a real man, who really did live and die and rise again. Please have a look with me at the first few verses of 1 John – 1:1-3.

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

John was an eyewitness to Jesus. He walked with Jesus, talked with Jesus, listened to Jesus explain how to get to heaven, watched Jesus do miracle after miracle, watched him die on a cross, met him again when he had risen from the dead.

Jesus' life, death and resurrection proves that what he says about heaven and hell is true. John is an eyewitness who recorded what Jesus said and did. Putting those two things together means we can have confidence when Jesus says there is a heaven and he is the only way to get there, that this is true.

e.g. Someone cooks lunch for us after church – we are eyewitnesses. Write it down – eyewitness record is true account of what happened.

Someone cooks lunch for us and says they are a professional chef. We are eyewitnesses and can check if what they are saying is true. Write it down – eyewitness record is true account of what happened and shows that we can believe the claims of the person who said they were a professional chef.

Same with Jesus – makes huge claims, backs them up. John the eyewitness records it all for us. We can believe that Jesus is who he claims to be.

## b) Confirmation of God

V6 – Spirit testifies b/c Spirit is the truth.

Not only John and the other eyewitnesses testify to Jesus, the HS testifies too.

Spirit testifies in two ways – came on Jesus at his baptism, continues to confirm in people's hearts that the testimony of the apostles about Jesus is true.

V7 -8 – 3 that testify – Spirit, water and blood – all in agreement. Important in court of law at the time – three witnesses all giving same evidence would prove the case.

V9 – God's testimony is greater than man's, and he has given testimony about his son – The events of Jesus' life, death and resurrection are not just historical events. God prophesied in the OT that he would send Jesus to do these things and then ordered events so that Jesus came and accomplished everything God had planned for him. God is speaking through these events, testifying to who his son is and what he is accomplishing by dying on the cross and rising again. The gospel writers even record for us two times where God speaks out loud in the middle of these events – Jesus' baptism and his transfiguration. God is testifying to who Jesus is and what he came to do.

V10 – Believe in Son of God – have this testimony in your heart. Don't believe in Son of God – don't believe God and call him a liar.

V11 – Testimony = God has given us eternal life in his Son

V12 – Have the Son = have life. Don't have the Son = don't have life.

**Big Idea:** v13 - John writes these things to those who believe in name of Son of God so that they may know that they have eternal life.

**Application:**

- 1. This life is not the end – there is life after death – heaven and hell.**
- 2. All about Jesus – believe in Jesus = heaven, don't believe in Jesus = hell.**
- 3. If you believe in Jesus, have sure and certain hope for the future**
- 4. Dealing with doubt – historical evidence, confirmed by God. Don't give in to those who tell you it's wrong.**