

LIFE IS SHORT.

Life is Short Part 2
Eternity is Real
Pastor Dave Patterson
April 14-15, 2018

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Key text for the series:

Psalm 90:12

Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may truly live and achieve wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

*God has made everything beautiful for its own time. **He has planted eternity in the human heart**, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

If you get your heart caught up in the temporal, you won't be counted as rich toward God.

2 Timothy 4:2-5

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching (sound doctrine).

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

Doctrine = the teaching of the Word and how it applies to N.T. Believers

2 major themes within the Bible:

1. Live for Jesus
2. Live for eternity

13% of Jesus' words death with eternal judgment or hell.

5 Attributes of the Eternal State of Separation from God

1. Hell is a real place that has been prepared for Satan, his angels, and those who have rejected Jesus.

- Matthew 25:41

*“Then he (Jesus) will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire **prepared for the devil and his angels.***

2. Hell is a place of eternal punishment

- Matthew 25:30

And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

- Matthew 25:46 (AMP)

Then these [unbelieving people] will go away into eternal (unending) punishment, but those who are righteous and in right standing with God [will go, by His remarkable grace] into eternal (unending) life.”

3. Hell is a place of unquenchable fire

- Mark 9:48

“thrown into hell,....where the fire never goes out” (is not quenched)

4. Hell is inescapable

- Luke 16:26

“And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here (heaven), and no one can cross over to us from there (hell)”

5. Hell is a place completely devoid of the presence of God

- 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

*He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and **shut out from the presence of the Lord** and from the glory of his might*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

*For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; **but the one who now holds it back** will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

“it ain’t those parts of the bible that I can’t understand that bother me... it’s the parts that I do”
Mark Twain

The gospel (good news) is: people don’t have to go to hell!

2 Peter 3:3-4, 9-10

Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.... but”

*... The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. **He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.** But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief.*

Deuteronomy 30:19

*“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. **Oh, that you would choose life,** so that you and your descendants might live!*

Some Attributes of Heaven

(Note: for a thorough study of heaven please see Randy Alcorn’s book, *Heaven*.)

1 Peter 3:22

*Now **Christ has gone into heaven.** He is seated in the place of honor, at God’s right hand.*

1. Heaven is a place - not a state of mind!

- John 14:1-3

*“Let not your heart be troubled; if you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions (dwelling places, rooms) ; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare **a place for you.** And if I go and prepare **a place for you,** I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” **JESUS***

2. In heaven, there is no pain, death, sorrow ...

- Revelation 21:3-5

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever. "And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"

3. In heaven, the curse of sin has been broken

- Revelation 22:3

No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him.

In light of the fact that we are eternal beings and we'll spend eternity somewhere . . .

(Application)

1. **Live with an eternal focus**

- Colossians 3:1-3

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, **set your sights on the realities of heaven**, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **Think about the things of heaven**, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

2. **Live with an urgency**

- 2 Peter 3:11-12

*Since everything will be destroyed in this way, **what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and **speed its coming.*****

- Matthew 24:14

*And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; **and then the end will come.***

3. **Live with an Anchored soul**

- Hebrews 6:19, 24 (AMP)

This hope [this confident assurance] we have as an anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whatever pressure bears upon it]—a safe and steadfast hope that

enters within the veil of the heavenly temple, that most Holy Place in which the very presence of God dwells...

... for Christ entered into heaven itself now to appear in the very presence of God

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What has been your exposure to the teachings of a literal heaven and a literal hell? Is this a new idea or something with which you're familiar?
2. What aspects of a literal hell stand out to you?
3. What aspects of a literal heaven stand out to you?
4. Considering God has placed eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11), how can we develop an eternal mindset? How much do you think about eternity?
5. Pastor Dave said, "Whatever you invest in will get your focus." Are there adjustments you need to make in your "investments"? How do we balance the day-to-day demands of life with the broad perspective of eternity and the urgency to share the gospel?
6. What effect does knowing people will enter eternity with or without God have on your heart? What hinders us from sharing the gospel with urgency?

7. How does the promise of heaven bring hope to everyday living - the great days and those that are challenging?