

Eternal Life

The Bible is not only full of promises, it is full of, "...exceeding great and precious promises..." (2 Pet. 1:3-4). Some of these promises are conditional. For example, children who obey the Godly guidance of their parents are at a lesser risk to suffer premature death than those who are disobedient to their parents (Eph. 6:1-3). Other promises are unconditional. Our Lord promised to return again and He will (2 Pet. 3:4 and v-10). Then there are fulfilled promises and unfulfilled promises. God promised to send Jesus and He did (Acts 13:23). Although this promise has been fulfilled, it is as great and precious today as it was when it was first given because there is salvation in no other (Acts 4:12). One of the unfulfilled and future promises is that of eternal life (1 Jn. 2:25). It is our topic for this discussion. Thus, we can see that the Bible is overflowing with exceeding great and precious promises. And, we can rest assured that no promise of God will ever fail (2 Cor. 1:20).

Life Is A Gift From God

Life is not the result of chance or evolution. Both of these theories are based upon radical idealism and wild speculation rather than actual science. Both theories stand in contradiction of known scientific law and therefore are refuted by true science instead of being upheld by it. Some of the meanings Webster gives for a theory is, "...; a hypothetical explanation of phenomena; a hypothesis not yet empirically verified as law...; a doctrine or scheme of things resting merely upon speculation, contemplation, supposition, or conjecture;..."(pg.1019). He (Webster) then defines hypothesis as, "... A proposition put forth as a basis for reasoning; ... , a mere assumption or guess.-....," (pg.473). Thus, evolution and the big bang theory are no more than a wild guess about creation spawned by atheistic idealism. Paul told the young evangelist, "O Timothy, ... avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science (knowledge-LY) falsely so called," (1 Tim. 6:20).

Evolution violates the law of Biogenesis (the cornerstone of all Biology) which is simply stated, life only comes from life and that of it's own kind. A law which harmonizes and agrees with creationism and the Bible (Gen. 1:24). The World Book Encyclopedia tells us, "Like several other scientists before him, Darwin believed that, through millions of years, all

species of plants and animals evolved (developed gradually) from a few common ancestors," (pg.38). Darwin and others took the simple process of adaptation and stretched it into the theory of evolution. An event which has never been known to have transpired since the beginning of time. The so-called fossil records have all been proven to be fraudulent evidences submitted by intellectually dishonest people.

The Big Bang theory is just as ridiculous. It violates both the first and second Law of Thermodynamics, basically stated: matter is incapable of creating itself and things are slowly winding down not growing stronger. Again, two scientific laws which harmonize with the creation story and the Bible (Gen. 1:1 and Heb. 1:10-12). Common sense would tell us if this phenomena occurred once it should still be going on today. But it isn't! Nor has any event of this type ever been recorded to have transpired. It is at best a poor attempt to explain man's origin.

Life is indeed a precious gift from God. Job said, "... the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord," (Job 1:21). Moses wrote, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them," (Gen.1:27). Furthermore, the teleological and cosmological arguments for creationism and God are irrefutable and undeniable. The Bible teaches us that every house is builded by some man, thus the logical conclusion, so is the universe. And, God is the builder of this world (Heb. 3:4). Therefore, the heavens and earth declare the existence of God and the origin of life,(Psalms 19:1). Those who choose to ignore this evidence are foolish and without excuse (Psalms 53:1 and Rom. 1:20). So, while Christianity is based upon faith, it is not a blind faith, (2 Cor. 5:7). There is irrefutable evidence which supports the creation claim (Heb.11:1).

The Value Of Life

Life is the most valuable possession owned by man. It is impossible to put a price tag on it. Jesus pointed this out when He said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul," (Matt. 16:26)? The value of life is illustrated in the three parables of Luke chapter fifteen. In the first parable Jesus compared the value of life to a lost sheep, "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after

that which is lost, until he find it," (Luke 15:4)? In the second He compared the value of life to a lost coin, "Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently til she find it," (Luke 15:8)? In the third and final parable, Our Lord illustrated the value of life by comparing it to a loved one who is lost or has passed away, "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found," (Luke 15:32). Surely, everyone of us can understand the value of the lost sheep to a shepherd, the lost coin to its owner, the lost child to it's parents, and the decease of a loved one to their family. Then why can't we perceive the value of both, physical and spiritual life? We sometimes wonder why God allows physical death to exist. It is the humble opinion of this writer that God has given us temporal separation (physical death- James 2:26) to make us aware of the horror of eternal separation (eternal death - 2 Thess. 1:7-9). This should stress unto us the value of life.

We live in a society that has devaluated life. In both the Old and New Testaments God condemns murder (Gen. 9:6 and Gal. 5:19-21). He expressly hates the shedding of innocent blood (Prov. 6:16-19). Even in the accidental death of an unborn child He demanded, "... life for life..."(Ex. 21:22-25). Nor does He condone euthanasia for the elderly or any other group of people but rather to repay our parents and grandparents by caring for them in their latter years and treating others as we would want them to treat us, (1 Tim. 5:4 and Matt. 7:12). Yet, we have a society who has legalized murder through abortion and seeks to further it in euthanasia and suicide. Then they cry, "you can't legislate morality,". Yet, every society has some type of moral code which its citizens are required to adhere to. The problem is that in most societies this moral code is based upon what man perceives to be right instead of upon what God reveals to be right. This is humanism. Man pretending to be God. Jeremiah said man is not capable of directing his own steps (Jer. 10:23). Solomon penned, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death," (Prov. 14:12). Twice in the book of Judges we are told, "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes," (Judges 17:6 and 21:25). When man becomes his own moral compass we have no moral standard and are showered with thousands of varying opinions of

what is right or wrong and fall subject to the whims of the individual who wears the black robe at that moment in time. Because life is perceived to have no value spirituality gradually fades away and society sinks in moral and ethical depravity. Does this sound familiar?

Eternal Life

Life is indeed precious to every living organism. Both plants and animals fight for existence unto the bitter end. Man's fight for survival has often led him on wild escapades in search of eternal life. History tells us that Ponce de Leon, an infamous Spanish soldier and explorer, was commissioned by King Ferdinand V to lead such an expedition, "King Ferdinand gave him permission to find and colonize an island called Bimini. This imaginary island was said to be the site of the Fountain of Youth," (World Book Encyclopedia- pg. 658). Of course this imaginary fountain was never found. However, man's quest for eternal life and/or longer life continues to this day. Innocent babes are slaughtered and butchered every day under the pretence of science in hope that something will be found or learned which will lengthen our days or immortalize life. The country is filled with fitness centers where people go hoping to lengthen their years here on earth. And, bodily exercise does have some profit in it (1 Tim. 4:8). But alas, we will die (Heb. 9:27)!

The Bible mentions three types of death. Please note that each of these are referred to as a separation not an end of existence. Physical death is the separation of the spirit and body, (James 2:26 and Gen. 35:18). Spiritual death is a separation from God because of sin (Isa.59:1-2 and Eph. 2:1). When and/if we repent of this sin we are spiritually alive once again. Thus, we pass in and out of spiritual life and death throughout our earthly life. Eternal death is an eternal separation from God (2 Thess. 1:7-9). It is a type of spiritual death but differs in that it is eternal. There is no passing back and forth. It is ironic that while man has always searched for a way to overcome death, God has always put that way within his reach.

Jesus came that we might have life in abundance (Jn. 10:10). That life is made available to all men through obedience to His word (Jn. 6:63 and James 1:21). When many of His disciples were offended by that word and turned away from Him the Bible says, "...Then said Jesus unto the twelve, will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord,

to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life," (Jn. 6:66-68). In order to receive the promise or gift of the Holy Spirit, (eternal life), those on Pentecost who heard the word (v37), and believed it (v36 and v41), were then told to repent and be baptized (v38) (Acts 2:36-41). Since we are elsewhere told we must confess the Deity of Jesus and the sum of God's word is true, we are left to logically infer that those of Pentecost also made the above mentioned confession (Rom. 10:8-10 and Psalm 119:160). They now received the gift or promise of eternal life (1 Jn. 2:25 and Rom. 6:23). The gift would continue to be theirs as long as they remained faithful to God (Rev. 2:10). Since the promise or gift was to those Jews, their children, all who are afar off, and as many as God shall call, surely, we too can obtain and continue to possess eternal life today by doing the same things that they did.

Conclusion

Eternal life is and has always been within the grasp of mankind. It is only one step away. Are you willing to take that step?

Works Cited

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God's Precious Promises...

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