

The Greatest Miracle

by
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No greater miracle has ever been recorded than the transformation that takes place at salvation, as a man's rebellious heart is cleansed from all sin through repentance and reconciled to a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, His Son.

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Life's Most Important Question

Where will you spend eternity?

Much attention in today's world is given to planning for tomorrow, and a great deal of importance is placed upon securing the future. Yet, many individuals never give any thought to life's most important question regarding their eternal destiny.

Death is a certainty. Though it can be delayed at times by medical breakthroughs and the latest in scientific technology, in the end death is inescapable. The Bible affirms the unquestionable reality of death, stating that every person will die once, adding, "and after that comes the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). This verse from Scripture recognizes that death is inevitable and confirms the promise of judgment for each individual following death.

What happens to an individual after death occurs? What judgment lies beyond the grave?

Throughout history man has entertained varied philosophies and ideas regarding the “after life.” Volumes have been written by those who sought for answers dealing with unknown issues relating to death. While these theories have come and gone, the Word of God remains, revealing the answers that man seeks to life’s most important question:

“Where will you spend eternity?”

The Greatest Miracle

No greater miracle has ever been recorded than the miraculous transformation that takes place at salvation, as the rebellious heart of a penitent man is cleansed from all sin through repentance and reconciled to a right relationship with God Almighty through Jesus Christ, His Son. In only a moment's time, a desperate individual can acknowledge his hopeless eternal state without God, and offer a prayer, crying out for God's mercy and forgiveness from sin. As a man or woman repents, the greatest miracle available to mankind takes place as they are cleansed of all sin and born again.

Far greater than any physical phenomenon, this kind of miracle takes place in the realm of the spirit, and deals with the eternal destiny of a person. The Bible records the words of Jesus when He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). To spend eternity in God's presence, a man must be

born again. It is not optional: “Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).

Experiencing The Greatest Miracle

The priceless gift of salvation is freely available to every man, woman, and child who will repent of sin and believe on Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16–17)

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

All Have Sinned

The Bible clearly states that all have sinned. That includes you, along with

every man, woman, boy, and girl who has ever lived.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Rom. 3:23)

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

We are each guilty of sin and rebellion against God’s laws. That means we are liable for every transgression and wrongdoing, for all have sinned. When we sin against God and break His moral law, we are responsible and held eternally accountable.

No good deed or virtuous action can remove sin or change the condition of man’s heart. The one and only way we can escape eternal judgment for our sins and transgressions is to be born again as we repent of sin.

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

The Penalty For Sin

God's Word states that the penalty or punishment for sin is death, meaning spiritual death or eternal separation from God. Because everyone has sinned, all are deserving of that punishment.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16)

God Is Love

God is a loving God, whose love is perfect, holy, and unchanging. His unconditional love for mankind has never wavered but has always remained steadfast.

It was man (Adam) who sinned against God and violated the loving relationship that existed at creation. Through disobedience man turned his back on the relationship he had enjoyed with God and

walked away from the fellowship and communion he had once known. Even then God still loved mankind, and offered a way by which man could be reconciled back to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

To bridge the gap between God and man, Jesus humbled Himself and took the form of a man. He was fully God and fully man, and came to earth to be a sinless substitute for the guilty.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:17)

“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:32)

God’s Loving Plan

After the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, sin separated man from a holy God. As a result of man’s disobedience,

he was deserving of “spiritual death” or eternal separation from God.

Through disobedience man chose to end his relationship with God. Yet, because God is not willing that any man perish eternally, He took the first step to restore the relationship, sending His only Son to be a sinless, innocent sacrifice so that man might be reconciled back to a right relationship with Him. Jesus Christ, the holy, righteous Son of God came to earth to die as a substitute for mankind. He who was innocent came to freely offer His life for mankind who was guilty.

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9)

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)