

Fountain of Youth

Wanting to have their youth restored, hundreds of people, perhaps even thousands, have searched for what is called, "The Fountain of Youth." As far back as the fifth century there have been stories that the fabled fountain exists. These stories have appeared in many writings and various paintings have created that reflect what the painter imagined it might look like. Among those looking for this fountain, it is alleged, was Juan Ponce de León, a Spanish explorer in the sixteenth century. Supposedly, Ponce de León traveled to what is now Florida where some Indians told him where the Fountain of Youth was. They told him that it could restore youth to anyone. In the many and varied stories told, it was alleged that all a person needed to do was to drink or bathe in the fountain. The idea behind the legendary Fountain of Youth was, by having youth restored, to increase the longevity of life, perhaps even to the point of making one immortal.

In recent years there have been many people who lived to the well advanced years of one hundred and more but, in the end, they did die. You see, the life that we now live, God never intended for people, anyone, to have their youth restored or to have a level of immortality in their lifetime. In the Bible, God's Word, we read, "And as it is appointed unto all men once to die, but after this the judgment:" {Hebrews 9:27} The word "appointed" literally means that there is laid up a time when man {the whole of mankind} will experience a physical death. Though the physical body will experience death, the eternal soul will remain alive and face a judgment. What kind of judgment? Please allow me a few minutes to briefly explain.

The Bible mentions two kinds of judgment:

{1} Judgment of those who have trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. These are people who have repented of their sin and, by faith alone in the blood of Jesus, have trusted Him as Saviour. These people, called Christians in the true biblical sense, are eternally saved {"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." 1John 5:13} and, when the physical body dies, they/we are immediately with the Saviour. "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." {2 Corinthians 5:8} On the Cross of Calvary when Jesus was crucified, the thief who believed on Him was that very day with the Saviour in paradise. "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." {Luke 23:43-44} A person who trusts Jesus Christ as Saviour is saved for all eternity {John 3:16; 10:28.} "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:" {John 3:36a} This is all made possible because the repentant sinner has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, **THE** Lamb of God. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18-19} "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," {Revelation 1:5b} Even though they are forgiven and eternally saved, they will give an account to God for how they lived their lives AFTER salvation. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad" {2 Corinthians 5:10}

{2} Those who have not repented of sin and trusted Him as Saviour. Without having repented of sin and trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour results in that lost person going to Hell, a very real place as mentioned by Jesus when He told of one who did not believe: "And in Hell he will be tormented, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." {Luke 16:23-28} Jesus also warned people about repenting when He said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish." {Luke 13:3,5} These people will stand before Jesus Christ at what the Bible calls the "great white throne." The Bible tells who will be in Heaven for we read, "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." {Revelation 21:27}

Sadly though, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place

for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:10-15}

The so-called Fountain of Youth exists only in mythology but, God in His Word tells us that the soul of man is eternal and, the only question remaining is where it will spend eternity. My friend, what will it be for you, eternity in Heaven or eternity in the lake of fire? God has promised that, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} Please, before it becomes eternally too late, repent of sin and by faith alone in the blood of Jesus Christ, trust Him as your personal Saviour. We have God's Word that we are eternally saved because He said, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." {1 John 5:11} That's a promise we can live with!!

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2017

All Scripture references are KJV