

The Appointment

Have you ever had an *appointment* for something? Sure you have! All of us at one time or another has had an *appointment*; we may have made the *appointment* our self or another person made it for us. **THE APPOINTMENT!** It may have been for a job interview, medical reason, family reunion, business meeting, social engagement, a court ordered date, etc. Some *appointments* we look forward to, such as a date, family reunion, or retirement, but then there are other *appointments* we dread and at times try to avoid. **THE APPOINTMENT** is made, but then for whatever reason it may be cancelled or rescheduled for another time. Most, not all but most *appointments* we have some control over, even to the extent of determining if we will honor it by keeping it. Agreed!? I thought so! Did you know that you have an *appointment* that you will keep? You cannot change it, you cannot cancel it, and you cannot postpone it? Like it or not, you will keep **THE APPOINTMENT!** And what that appointment might be, you may ask. Please, allow me to briefly explain.

Someone once said that the only things in life that are certain are taxes and death. That is not true! Taxes are subject to change and they often do for good or bad, but death does not for the Bible tells us, "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*" (Hebrews 9:27). Every one of us has an *appointment* with death, at whatever age or stage of life, and we will keep that *appointment*. The question is not will you die, but are you ready to die when your time comes? Are you prepared for **THE APPOINTMENT?** You don't know when you have **THE APPOINTMENT?** Neither do I know, but **THE APPOINTMENT** time will arrive, it will be kept. "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*" If your *appointment* with death and eternity is next week, do you know **today** where you will spend eternity? The body goes in to ground, it may be cremated, or whatever, but the eternal soul (the real you) goes to one of two places, either the place the Bible calls Heaven or the place called hell; there is no in between place; there WILL NOT be a second chance as some claim. God said it and that settles it no matter what religions may say. The Bible (the Word of God) clearly declares that there is a place of eternal fire and torment which is the final and eternal dwelling place of those who die without Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. (Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8) However, this same Bible also declares that Heaven will be the final and eternal dwelling place of those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. (Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Pe. 1:3-4) Please, allow me a couple minutes of your time to explain.

Man is a sinner by birth AND by choice ("*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*" Ro. 3:23); all of us have a sin nature and it is out of this nature that we commit the various acts of sin ("*For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies*". Mt 15:19) Where did the sin nature come from? We inherited it from the first Adam. ("*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*" Ro 5:12) Because we are sinners by birth and by choice, a thrice holy God cannot and will not allow us into His holy Heaven which cannot be defiled. ("*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" John 3:3) The consequences then would be for every sinner to go to the place the Bible calls hell. ("*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire*". Re 20:15) HOWEVER, that is not what God desires for His creation because of His great love for us ("*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.*" Jn. 3:16 "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*" 2Pe 3:9) so He provided an alternative for us. And what, you may ask, would that alternative be? The answer: for someone to pay our sin debt, for someone to make us clean and fit for Heaven. **THE** person who paid our sin debt was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who left Heaven's glory and became man (literally

became physical man without ceasing to be God) so that He could pay our sin debt. (I Peter 1:18-19) When Jesus Christ shed His blood and died on the Cross of Calvary He literally became our sinless sacrifice and (Hebrews 9:26), as such, paid our sin debt in full (Hebrews 10:12). We owed a debt we could not pay; Christ paid a debt He did not owe. There was absolutely nothing else **He** could do for the salvation of our lost souls. What remains to be done is for the lost soul (sinner) to repent (Acts 3:9) (a change of mind that leads to a change of action or, to put it another way, to take God's side against our sin) and by faith alone in the death and shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as personal Saviour. God has promised the repentant sinner that whosoever calls upon Him for salvation, that person will be forgiven and saved for all eternity. *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 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."* (I John 5:11-13) God said it and that settles it; it remains for the lost soul to believe it. Jesus Christ had an *appointment* at Calvary; all people have an *appointment* with death; "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" **THE APPOINTMENT**, are you ready for it friend? Can you say that if God has scheduled **YOUR APPOINTMENT** with death and eternity for next week, that **TODAY** you are ready? Friend, if you have not repented of your sin and received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, then on the authority of God's eternal Word I must tell you that you **ARE NOT** ready for **YOUR APPOINTMENT**. Please, for the sake of your eternal soul, right now, will you repent and call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you and save you for all eternity? There is no magical formula, no ritual to go through; it is a matter of faith in God and believing to be true what God's Word says, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (Ro. 10:13) You can come to God in prayer, in your own words from the heart believing, seek His forgiveness and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. It is my prayer that you will. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever (that's you friend) believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

-Richard A. Ciarrocca ©2009