

Two Reservations

You are planning to go on a trip, a trip that includes flying and staying at a motel. You will need a vehicle to use when you arrive at your destination. With all of this in mind, **you make careful plans**; you book a flight, so you have a reserved seat. You call ahead and reserve a motel room for the length of your stay, and you arrange for a vehicle to use. These reservations are just for you for your future use. Because you want your trip to be most enjoyable, a checklist is made of everything that needs to be taken care of in advance. Then as preparation is made, the things on the checklist are crossed off. As an added precaution, you double check the checklist just to be sure. After all, this trip is important to you and you want to make sure, absolutely, that everything, without exception, is taken care of. Giving so much attention to detail is very wise! Anyone going on a trip will, to some extent, make certain preparations. As a matter of fact, we could say that anyone who is going on a trip without making any preparations in advance, that person would be foolish.

My friend, one day you will go on a trip, a one-way trip into eternity from which there is not and will not be a return. Exactly when that trip will be, I do not know and neither do you. Make no mistake about it though; all of us will make that trip! How do I know this? Because the Bible says so. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die,” {Hebrews 9:27 a} When the physical body of a person dies, the eternal soul passes into eternity; eternity consists of two places and two places only. One place the Bible calls Heaven and the other place is called hell. According to God’s Word, the Bible, there is not any place in between and, to say that there is, is to call God a liar. Now then about your “trip.”

Jesus Christ was talking to a religious man when He said, “...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” {John 3:3 b} The “kingdom of God” is Heaven and that is where Jesus Christ came from and where He went back to after His death, burial, and bodily resurrection. At this very moment He is in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father. “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” {Hebrews 10:12} The sacrifice spoken of was when Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary and paid the full and final payment for our sin debt. We all inherited a sin nature from Adam as the result of his disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden. {Genesis 2:17, 3:6; Romans 5:12} “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:”} Jesus took the form of a human body when he came into this world and, the purpose was to die on the Cross of Calvary. In every sense, He literally paid our sin debt with His innocent shed blood and death. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” {Romans 5-9} It is the blood of Jesus that redeems us from the slave market of sin. “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} For those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, Heaven awaits them when they leave this world through the vehicle of death. Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: 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 unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.” {John 14:1-3} “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} The only people who will be in Heaven are those who have repented of sin and, by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, have trusted Him as Saviour and have their names recorded in His book of life. “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}

For those on the journey into eternity who have not repented of sin and trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, their destination is the place the Bible calls hell. This may not be a pretty thought but, it is what the Bible says. “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” {Revelation 20:15} Every day unprepared people leave this world through the portal of death only to enter hell. It does not have to end that way, but it does. Throughout their life they prepared for many things without giving thought to their eternal destination. God loves you so much and He does not want your life to end that way; that is why He sent

Jesus to die for you. “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.” {John 3:16} The decision to repent and trust Jesus as Saviour or to reject Him is your decision to make; not God or anyone else can make that decision for you. If you reject Jesus, then you have condemned yourself. “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” {John 3:18, 36}

There are two reservations; one is in Heaven and the other is in Hell. Which reservation will you choose this day? To choose the reservation in Heaven, repent of sin and trust Jesus as Saviour today. He will forgive and save you if you call on His name. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” {Romans 10:13} “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” {Acts 4:12} By rejecting Jesus Christ as Saviour, you automatically choose the other reservation. It is my prayer that you will repent and trust Jesus Christ today, before it is eternally too late. “...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” {2 Corinthians 6:2}

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/April 2020

All Scripture references are KJV