

Coach House Church BEACONS

EVERLASTING LIFE

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People have always been fascinated by eternal life; myths about creatures that cannot die and wells of eternal youth preoccupied thinking minds from very early histories.

What if death is not a natural outcome of life?

When God created Adam and the whole world around him, everything , the whole creation was very good . That's what Genesis 1:31 tells us. Adam was created to be God's friend . They enjoined each other's company and the Lord walked with Adam and later with Eve. They were put in a lovely garden where they tended the plants and the animals. There was no hard work and labour, there was no decay and no death in the world at this point.

The man and his wife were eating fruit from the trees and they did not know what shame was. They only had one rule : one particular tree was forbidden ; God told them not to eat from it because if they did they would die.

Adam and Eve broke that one rule. They went and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This resulted in God no longer being able to fellowship with them. Eating from that tree was disobedience to God's instructions or put more simply a sin. God cannot be in the presence of sin and therefore Adam and Eve had to leave God's presence. They were banished out of the garden and this way back was barred guarded by an angel. From here on everything had changed: they had to work hard for their food, they felt pain and grew old and eventually died physically .

When they disobeyed God they died spiritually because they were not allowed in God's presence any longer .

However, God has not abandoned them. He made provisions for them. In Genesis 3:15 God tells the man and his wife his plan. There will be someone in their future, one of their children who would be able to make the way back to God accessible again. He would be able to pay for their disobedience. The bible says in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death. So this person would have to die to sacrifice himself as payment for sin.

John 3:15 says that

“ God so much loved the world”- here it means mankind - “that he give his only Son ,so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

This Son of God is Jesus. Because He loved us, God made a way for us to be restored into his presence.

You might ask yourself: why did Jesus have to die? Could he not just have payed the price in gold or something else? We will answer this question by looking back into the bible but before we do that think about this: why do we, as parents or educators, put rules in place for our children? Why do adults teach children to abide by the rules? Well, there's a few reasons that come to mind. 1) they need to obey rules for their own good and 2) because there are consequences if rules are broken.

Going back to the bible, we see exactly that: Adam and Eve were told not to eat from the fruit of the forbidden tree because if they did, they would die. That was the rule - which they did not obey so the consequence came - they died! You might say, hang on, I know the story and that's not what happened. They lived on and populated the earth. And, off course you are right.

However, they were not allowed back into God's presence. Their communion died. They couldn't be together anymore.

That still does not answer our question, not yet.

As we said before the wages of sin is death according to the bible: there was a consequence to their disobedience; but God loved Adam and Eve, He did not wanted them dead. Even so, the price for their disobedience had to be payed. And it was.

A few millennia later Jesus came and payed that price: died and took upon himself the death owed by Adam , Eve and everybody else .

He was perfect . No sin was found in him so therefore he was able to make the way back to God accessible again.

When a person decides that they need Jesus to bring them back into the presence of God, they are born again. This is very nicely explained by Jesus to a teacher of the Jewish law of his time called Nicodemus. You find the story in John chapter 3; Jesus tells him that to be able to enter the kingdom of God ,man needs to be born again out of water and spirit.

Jesus' s blood made it possible for those who believe to be brought back into God's presence and restore us to the eternal life intended for Adam and Eve.

Let's pray:

Thank you Lord for your plan of salvation for us. Thank you that you did not abandon us. Thank you for Jesus

Amen



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