

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

RLJ-1375

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 20: THE ETERNAL GOAL

Here in America we have hall of fames for music and sports and the eleventh chapter of Hebrews is a "Hall of Faith." In studying the first 20 verses, we have found there is no faith without obedience to God; our faith should be focused on the city of God, where we will dwell for eternity. **Hebrews 11:13-16**

PREPARING FOR THE CITY OF GOD

Every child is told they need to prepare for life as an adult. Children in the United States begin their education at 6 years old and most end it at the age of 18 when they complete high school. That is a time investment of 12 years.

If a person lives a normal life, he can expect to work for 47 years and retire at the age of 65. Thus a person is willing to spend 12 years to be educated and then another 47 years of using his education in the work force.

The average Christian will spend one hour per week in a Sunday worship service, so by the time he is 65 years old, he will have spent 4.7 months to train for his eternal life. Add in an extra hour per week for Bible study and prayer time and his eternal education rises to 9.4 months.

If we look at a dedicated Christian who spends 2 hours per week on Sundays in church, attends a weekly prayer meeting for 1 hour and spends 1 hour every day in a personal Bible study and prayer, he will have 3.9 years of spiritual education.

We spend 12 years full time receiving a secular education that will be used for a period of 47 years; whereas, our spiritual education of 3.9 years is spread out over our lifetime. Thus, we can see that our spiritual focus is dismal compared to our secular education.

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

Jesus told his disciples to prepare for eternity. **Luke 12:15-32**

Jesus told his disciples to transfer their wealth into eternity. **Matthew 6:19-21**

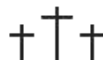
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

There is a difference in being skilled to do things compared to spiritual maturity. Knowledge is learned and skills come through practice but spiritual maturity only comes from the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 2:9-16**

Jesus gave us an outline for spiritual growth. **Matthew 5:1-12**

A mature Christian is humble. **Matthew 20:25-28**

A mature Christian is responsible. **Matthew 25:14-29**



A mature Christian will display the fruit of the Holy Spirit. **Galatians 5:22-26**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ONLY TAKES PLACE ON EARTH

In eternity there will be no Devil or demons nor will there be any sin. The sinful nature that we dragged around on earth will be gone and we won't have any challenges. **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

The maturity we obtained on earth through trials and sufferings will be with us forever. **1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 5:10**

INCREASE YOUR MATURITY

What can you do to increase your maturity?

1. Be faithful with what God has given to you, including yourself. **Luke 19:17**
2. Be obedient to Jesus every day of your life. **John 14:15**
3. Always try to rejoice in the Lord. **Philippians 4:4-13**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?