



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Eternal Choice

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme

Heaven or Hell? It's Your Choice

Prayer Focus

Father, my heart overflows with gratitude for what You've done for me. You made the ultimate sacrifice by taking on my sins and paying the price so I can be free. Thank You for Your unconditional love that never fades away. Thank You for being my constant guide and speaking to me daily. You're the perfect Father, full of grace and wisdom, and I'm in awe of Your goodness. You have a plan and purpose for my life, and I trust You with every step I take. Please continue to teach me how to follow Your Word and live a life pleasing to You. I pray this in the mighty Name of Jesus, Amen.

Key Truths

The Bible teaches us that Moses willingly left behind the pleasures and power of the world to pursue his heavenly reward. Despite being a member of the Egyptian royal family and having access to immense privilege and authority, he recognized the danger of turning away from God. Instead, he chose to live amongst the Hebrew people. This earthly life is a testing ground for what will come, as our decisions and actions determine where we will make our eternal home.

As human beings, God created us to have a deep and meaningful relationship with Him. We are a spirit, soul, and body, and when we pass from this life, it's not the end of our existence, but rather, the true essence of who we are steps out into eternity.

Heaven: Jesus tells us that Heaven is an extraordinary place of reunion, where we will recognize our loved ones who have passed before us. The beauty of Heaven is beyond our wildest imagination, reflecting the character and nature of God, with no evil, darkness, or malevolence present. It's a paradise, a dwelling place, and a space for everlasting praise and worship to our Creator with a choir of angels to accompany us. The most incredible thing about Heaven is that we will always be in God's presence. There will be no death, no pain, and no suffering. It's where brothers and sisters in Christ can look forward to spending forever.

Hell: Sometimes people confuse Hades with Hell, but they're different places. Hades is a holding area until judgment day, and Hell is a permanent place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Think of Hades as a jail to hold criminals before they stand trial and Hell as the prison they're sentenced to if convicted. In Hell, there's no joy, mercy, or second chances. And like Heaven, Hell is permanent, making the decision to live life for Christ even

more important.

Practical Application

Throughout our lives, we make countless decisions that shape our future. However, nothing has more weight than deciding where we will spend eternity. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and we can enter into a relationship with the Father and secure our eternal destination only through Him. We can never atone for our sins alone, but Christ paid the price for us. As long as we're still breathing, there's hope for us to turn to God with repentant hearts and receive His mercy. The way to get right with God is to accept what He did for us and surrender our lives to Him.

Today, you have the opportunity to change your eternal destination. The path to righteousness is accepting what God has done for us and surrendering our lives to Him. Take a moment to reflect on where you stand with God. Are you where you want to be? Are you as close to God as you'd like? What can you do to change that?

Reference Verses

- Matthew 25:46, 12:40, 27:52-53
- Romans 1:24
- John 14:6, 10:10
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- Revelation 4:11, 20:10
- Luke 16:19-27, 18:3
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- James 2:26
- 2 Corinthians 12:2-5
- 1 Corinthians 15:44
- Ephesians 4:8-9
- Hebrews 9:27

Declarations

I will live my life for God and make a difference where I am right now.

I choose to live my life for God so that I may be with Him in Heaven for all eternity.

It may not be easy, but I will turn away from the power and privileges of the world to pursue a life with God.

What's Next?

Pastor's message on Heaven and Hell, let's consider how this profoundly impacts our lives. This choice determines our eternity. God's gift of grace through Christ is available now. Let's explore practical steps to guide you toward Heaven...

- **Study the Word about Hell:** Understand that the majority of what we know about hell comes from Jesus himself. This emphasizes the importance of studying His teachings and

understanding them deeply. Make it a priority to study the words and teachings of Jesus in the Bible. Focus on understanding His message about salvation, judgment, and eternity.

- **Eternal Consequences:** Recognize the gravity of the concept of eternity. Heaven and hell are not mere abstract ideas; they are real destinations that await every individual after death. Reflect on the reality of eternity and consider how your beliefs and actions align with this truth. Make decisions in your daily life that prioritize your eternal destiny.
- **Urgency of Choice:** Understand that this earthly life is temporary and serves as a testing ground for eternity. Your choices here determine your eternal destination. Live with a sense of urgency in your faith journey. Take seriously the decisions you make and prioritize aligning your life with God's will and purpose.
- **Most Importantly Accept Jesus as Savior:** Reflect on your own spiritual journey and whether you have fully surrendered your life to Christ. If not, consider what steps you can take today to align your life with God's will and accept His gift of salvation.

Now it's time to write down anything the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, thank Him, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References

Eternal Choice

Matthew 25:46 KJV And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Romans 1:24 NKJV Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness...

2 Thessalonians 1:9 RENNER A verdict will be issued in God's court of law and a sentence will be passed, requiring all those who rejected the gospel to pay the consequences of eternal destruction. This doesn't mean they will cease to exist. However, in eternity they will lose the meaning of existence...

2 Thessalonians 1:9 RENNER...for they will be separated from the presence of the Lord, far removed from His glory, and it will be too late for His mighty strength to reach down to save, rescue or deliver them.

Luke 16:19-27 NKJV "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also

died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house...

James 2:26 NKJV For as the body without the spirit is dead...

Luke 16:24 NKJV "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

Genesis 49:33 NKJV And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

1 Corinthians 15:44 NKJV There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

2 Corinthians 12:2 NKJV I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

Psalms 19:1 NKJV The heavens declare the glory of God...

2 Corinthians 12:3 NKJV And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know...

James 2:26 NKJV For as the body without the spirit is dead...

Luke 16:22-23 NKJV So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes...

Matthew 12:40 NKJV For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Romans 10:6-7 ESV But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Ephesians 4:8-9 NKJV "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Matthew 27:52-53 NKJV ...and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NKJV And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV Then I saw a great white throne and Him who 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, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second ^hdeath. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 14:6 NKJV Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Romans 7:9 NKJV I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.

2 Samuel 12:23 NKJV Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.