

Community Group Notes from Sunday 26th July

“In”

The Life to Come: Peter Vincent

Group Questions

1. How do you find yourself responding to the teaching on the eternal punishment of unbelievers?
2. How do you find yourself responding to the teaching on the eternal rewards for believers?
3. Jim Elliot said “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose”. How does this affect your outlook on life?

Summary of Message

The Life to Come

1. The eternal punishment of unbelievers

This is:

- a). a punishment God wants everyone to avoid - 1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, 2 Peter 3:15
- b). a punishment Jesus took on the cross
- c). a punishment that must come – to those who refuse to believe in Jesus - Romans 2:5
- d). a punishment of eternal conscious suffering - Matthew 25:41 & 46
See also Mark 9:43 & 48, Matthew 11:23, Luke 16:23 & 24
- e). a punishment of differing degrees – Matthew 11:21-24

Conclusion

The punishment that follows the final judgement will be just and fair because God is the judge and He is just and fair.

Application

The reality of eternal punishment is one part of our motivation to share gospel.

2. The eternal reward of believers

- a). a New Heaven and a New Earth. Jesus went to prepare a place for us – John 14:2-3, 2 Peter 3:13, Romans 8:21. The New Earth will probably be the renewed Earth rather than a replacement Earth and will be stunningly beautiful – see Revelation 21.
- b). a new joining of Heaven and Earth - Revelation 21:2
- c). a new body – 1 Corinthians 15:42 – 44. New bodies will be imperishable, glorious, powerful and spiritual, as well as physical. We will be recognisable. See also Philippians 3:20-21.
- d). a new life “where God most fully makes known His presence to bless” this will be characterised by food and drink, music and singing, celebration where we shall rule and reign – Revelation 22:5. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, no evil, no darkness, no fear, no conflict. There will be eternal fellowship with all God’s people and with God Himself who we will see face to face.
- e). a great reward. Every believer will be fully happy. Believers will be rewarded according to service – see 2 Corinthians 5:10, Luke 6:22 & 35, Luke 12:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:8,13 & 14

Application

Lay up treasure in Heaven – Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Unlike treasure on Earth the treasure in Heaven never rots, is never stolen, never loses its value, is permanent, secure and it’s from God. We cannot compare the value of rewards for life on Earth with eternal rewards from God Himself as Jim Elliot said “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose”. Jesus said “whoever wants to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for me will save it”.

“You know that your labour for the Lord is not in vain” 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Out”

I want to host a BIG Alpha on a Tuesday night starting at the end of September so now is the time to get your friends and family meeting your Community Group – especially those you would like to bring with you to the Alpha Course. BBQ's, Picnics, Days Out do whatever you can to get your friends in your community. I am really happy for Community Groups to have a table at the Alpha with your friends – you need to make sure the balance is right so there should be one guest for every Christian. I know it sounds harsh but too many Christians on Alpha just does not work.

If you are part of the new Year 12+13 Community Group maybe you would like to lead a table with some of your friends at the next Alpha – think about it and chat to me!

Any great or ideas or if you want to be involved in Alpha next term drop me a mail
Melanie@thecommunitychurch.org.uk or text me 07929791382

Events Coming Up...

1st – 7th August – **Newday** @ Norfolk Showground

3rd – 7th August – **Holiday Bible Week** @ Bishop's Stortford High School

28th – 30th August – **Together at Shuttleworth** @ Shuttleworth House

This Sunday...

Oge Austin-Chukwu will be continuing our journey through the gospel of Mark