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Toward which eternal conscious existence are you heading?

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BIRTH AND DEATH

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(editing by Kathy Boynton)

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Death is not the opposite of birth. Nevertheless, some believe that, when you die, your conscious existence ends as though you'd never been born. They believe death simply reverses birth, returning the deceased to oblivion.

Jesus exposed this view's fallacy while speaking of Judas Iscariot. Judas was about to betray Him, and then commit suicide. Jesus said,

"The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born."
(Mark 14:21)

If, by committing suicide, Judas simply returned to his pre-birth nonexistence, Jesus' statement wouldn't make sense. According to Jesus, an eternal state of consciousness awaits all who are ever born. In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus describes two men. One was rich; the other, a beggar. They both died. The beggar, who apparently trusted God, ended up in a beautiful setting Jesus called "Abraham's bosom." In contrast, the rich man apparently had a wicked, unsaved heart, valuing riches more than God. He ended up in a place where he shall be eternally tormented in

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horrible flames. Now Judas, experiencing these same flames, must understand that he would, indeed, be better off had he never been born.

All who are born have an eternal, irrevocable conscious existence. John the Baptist describes the only two possible afterlife alternatives, showing that your relationship to Christ determines your eternal destiny.

"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 3:36)

Though some like to say there are many ways to God, Jesus, who is God the Son, emphatically denies this. He said,

"... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
(John 14:6)

Jesus Christ died on the cross as a substitute sinner to rescue sinners who turn to Him. Turning to Jesus means turning away (i.e. repenting) from sin. After dying, Jesus was buried, rose again the third day, and ascended to

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