

What will your earthly accomplishments be worth, in eternity, if you lose your own soul and live hopelessly ever after?

**THEY LIVED
HOPELESSLY
EVER AFTER**

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(editing by Kathy Boynton)

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If there were stories ending with the words, "...and they lived hopelessly ever after," few folks would read them. Most prefer happy stories ending with the words, "...and they lived happily ever after." We all like such endings. There's a yearning in our hearts for perpetual joy which never ends.

Unfortunately Scripture warns us that, though there are two alternatives, most will experience eternal hopelessness after this life. Jesus said,

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

Though we've heard, repeatedly, that "you can't take it with you," most of us are so distracted by the enticements and goals of this life, that we give little heed to what happens when it ends. And it will end soon!

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For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:11).

When I was four years old, one year seemed incredibly long. Now that I'm about to enter my eighth decade, it seems incredibly short. When you've been in eternity for thirty-two trillion years, even a 1000 year life span will be like less than one second by comparison. Knowing this, Jesus invited folks to follow Him and then asked them a thought provoking question.

"...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:34-36).

This same LORD Jesus Christ offered Himself as the willing sacrifice to save His people from their sins. Will you come to Him admitting that you're a sinner? Will you repent and ask Him to forgive you and give you eternal life?

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