

“Setting Sail: Throwing Out the Lifeline”

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As CBC goes on a voyage, each of us should be throwing out the lifeline because of the:

- 1. Brevity of life.**
(James 4:13-14; Proverbs 27:1; Psalms 39:4-6)

- 2. Coming judgment.**
(Hebrews 9:27; 1 Peter 4:5; Romans 2:16)

“The doctrine of final judgment...stresses man’s accountability and the certainty that justice will finally triumph over all the wrongs which are part and parcel of life here and now. The former gives a dignity to the humblest action, the latter brings calmness and assurance to those in the thick of the battle. This doctrine gives meaning to life...The Christian view of judgment means that history moves to a goal...Judgment protects the idea of the triumph of God and of good. It is unthinkable that the present conflict between good and evil should last throughout eternity. Judgment means that evil will be disposed of authoritatively, decisively, finally. Judgment means that in the end God’s will will be perfectly done. (*The Biblical Doctrine of Judgment, p. 72*)

J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press,
Downers Grove, IL, 1973, p. 144.

3. Reality of Hell.
(Matthew 13:40-42; Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 13:28)

“What would keep us out of Heaven is universal: ‘All of sinned and fall short of the glory of God’ (Romans 3:23). Sin separates us from a relationship with God (Isaiah 59:2). God is so holy that he cannot allow sin into his presence: “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong” (Habakkuk 1:13). Because we are sinners, we are not entitled to enter God’s presence. We cannot enter Heaven as we are.

So Heaven is *not* our default destination. No one goes there automatically. Unless our sin problem is resolved, the only place we will go is our true default destination...Hell.”

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL, 2004, p. 23.

“Scripture says of those who die without Jesus, ‘They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power’ (2 Thessalonians 1:9). Because God is the source of all good, and hell is the absence of God, Hell must also be the absence of all good. Likewise, community, fellowship, and friendship are good, rooted in the triune God himself. But in the absence of God, Hell will have no community, no camaraderie, no friendship. I don’t believe Hell is a place where demons take delight in punishing people and where people commiserate over their fate. More likely, each person is in solitary confinement, just as the rich man is portrayed along in Hell (Luke 16:22-23). Misery loves company, but there will be nothing to love in Hell.

The best of life on Earth is a glimpse of Heaven; the worst of life is a glimpse of Hell. For Christians, this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For the unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven.”

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL, 2004, p. 28.