

Without God

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Eph. 2:1-6, 11-13

1. When a loved one passes from this life, there are consequences far beyond physical absence. Obviously --
 - a. Loss of companionship; loneliness and emptiness of the house
 - b. Loss of income
 - c. Fear, frustration, feeling lost
2. Other things are not so obvious, but just as real.
 - a. A widow forgot to bring in the mail because her husband did it.
 - b. A widower didn't know how to balance a checkbook because his wife always did it.
3. Being divorced is even more traumatic than a spouse's death. One suffers all the same losses in a death (Loneliness and sense of emptiness) and the same adjustments to life's activities without a mate
 - a. But in addition to grief, the divorced person has the feelings of rejection (their mate chose to leave them and chose another)
 - b. The separation creates discord in other relationships

B. These events are echoed in the spiritual realm as well.

1. Christians occasionally become unfaithful to God and separate themselves from Him - James 4:4
2. There will come a day when that separation will become absolute and permanent - John 5:28-29
3. The tragic irony of this is that in this world fallen Christians want to be distant from God and cannot escape His attention and judgment; but, after the Judgment and in Perdition, they will crave God's attention, and He will take no note of their suffering or even their existence.

I. GOD DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM

A. Not in this world, nor in the world to come; therefore, God is more patient than humankind would be.

1. How often would you tolerate your mate being unfaithful to you?
2. When Christians sin, they are unfaithful to God - Ez. 16:32

B. God is more forgiving than any man would be.

1. How many times would you forgive a person who sinned against you?
2. If a person lived to the age of 80 years and only committed one sin per day from the age of accountability, God forgave him 25,000 times
3. How many times would you forgive someone who knowingly and repeatedly did the same wrong toward you?
4. They throw a rock through your front window every day for a month and just say, "I'm sorry." Eventually, you would find it hard to forgive.

C. God doesn't want anyone to be eternally lost - 1Tim. 2:3-4; 2Peter 3:9

D. God's desire for our salvation is so strong that He paid the greatest price.

1. John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-10

II. GOD MUST SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM THOSE WHO SIN

- A. Though it is not His desire, God must separate Himself from evil because He is holy. He cannot remain in the presence of sin without changing who He is
 - 1. Ex. 3:5; Lev. 11:44-45; 1Peter 1:14-16
 - 2. No one is holy on his own; he must be cleansed by the blood of Jesus.
 - a. Rom. 3:10, 23; 1Cor. 6:11
- B. God is just, so He must keep His word and apply His law without favor to any, including Himself.
 - 1. God takes no pleasure in punishing His rebellious children - Ez. 33:11
 - 2. God must remain true to His nature - Deut. 32:4; Rom. 9:14
 - 3. Justice demands punishment of all violators without partiality - Col. 3:25
 - 4. Failure to judge the wicked is unjust and discourages righteousness.

III. AT DEATH, SEPARATION FROM GOD BECOMES COMPLETE AND ETERNAL

- A. Sin causes people to be spiritually dead and separated from God - Rom. 6:23
 - 1. Separation implies an adversarial relationship with God - Isa. 59:1-2
- B. God wants to make alive again those who are dead - Eph. 2:1-5
- C. Renewed spiritual life is available only in Christ Jesus - Gal. 3:26-27
 - 1. Baptism is the sign of the covenant that people of faith make with God.
 - 2. But those who die estranged from God remain so eternally - Heb. 9:27
 - a. Death seals our eternal destiny. Now is the time of mercy; in the Judgment comes justice.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF SEPARATION FROM GOD ARE WORSE THAN DEATH

- A. Separation from God separates one from the best of what God gives to His children - James 1:17
- B. Separation from God separates one from light, because God is light
 - 1. 1John 1:5-6; Rev. 22:5
 - 2. The reason why there is no light in hell: God is not there.
 - a. 2Peter 2:17; Matt. 25:30; Jude 13
- C. Separation from God means that one is separated from love; there will be no love in hell because God is love, and He does not visit hell.
 - 1. Imagine being in a place where no one loves you or will ever love you. No one will care about anyone else. Everyone will be concerned about their own pain and loss - 1John 4:16

Conclusion:

- A. God has gone to extremes to keep people from suffering separation from Him in this world and the one to come.
 - 1. He has shown more patience than any man would have shown.
 - 2. He has provided a way for all men to be reconciled to Him.
 - 3. He has prepared a place for humankind to spend eternity with Him.
 - a. John 14:1-3; 1Peter 1:3-5; 2Cor. 6:2