



FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD



AT THE MOVIES

Which movies have you seen?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ghost | <input type="checkbox"/> Oh God | <input type="checkbox"/> Defending Your Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fearless | <input type="checkbox"/> Poltergeist | <input type="checkbox"/> Dead Poets Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highlander | <input type="checkbox"/> Star Wars | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered States |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dead Again | <input type="checkbox"/> IT | <input type="checkbox"/> Star Trek VI—The Final Frontier |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ghostbusters | <input type="checkbox"/> Flatliners | <input type="checkbox"/> It's a Wonderful Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body and Souls | <input type="checkbox"/> Hell Raiser | <input type="checkbox"/> Heaven Can Wait |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Exorcist | <input type="checkbox"/> Dracula | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field of Dreams | <input type="checkbox"/> Death Becomes Her | |

Well, people don't so much believe in God as they choose not to believe in nothing. Life and death, they happen for no reason . . . we think we die because we eat red meat or rob banks. You know that if we can't be good enough or careful enough to live forever—at least we can try. If life and death doesn't happen we have no reason to do anything.

He learned the secret of eternal life and it's here among us in the hearts of his friends and the secret of eternal youth right here in the lives of his children and his grandchildren. And it's my opinion that our beloved Ernest is one man who will indeed live forever.

We've experienced death. Somehow we've brought our sins back from the past . . . Young Dr. Dave thinks he's solved our karmic problems . . . atonement, gentlemen.

Which movies are these quotes from?

Because we are food for worms, lads. Because, believe it or not, each and every one of us in this room is one day going to stop breathing, turn cold, and die.

There comes a time when all the cosmic tumblers fall into place, and the universe opens itself up for a few seconds to show you what's inside.

When you're born into this universe you're in it for a long, long time. You have many different lifetimes. After each one is an examining period.

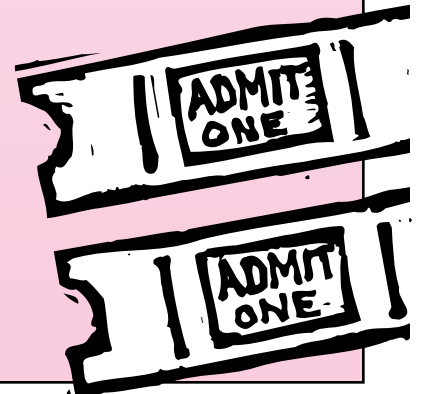
If I don't help you George, I won't get my wings.

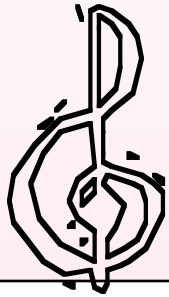


THAT'S WEIRD

In 1976 a chemist experienced clinical brain death. He described the sensation of leaving the body. He also went on to describe the details surrounding the scene of his death, including the men attending to him, what they were wearing, colors of their shirts, the patterns on their ties, even the jewelry they were wearing. The chemist was blind.

—J.P. Moreland & Gary Gabermaas, *Immortality: The Other Side of Death*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992), pp. 73ff.





Imagine there's no heaven. It's
easy if you try. No hell below us.
Above us only sky.

John Lennon



BRAINSTORM

Different views of the afterlife:

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-
-
-
-
-

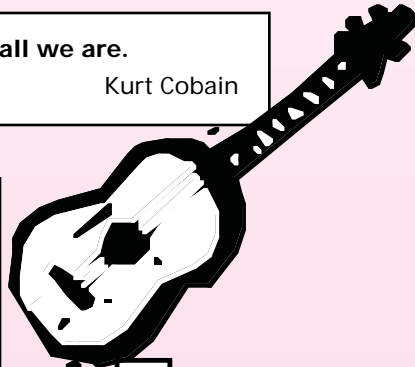


DISCUSS

Can all these views be true?
Why or why not?

All in all is all we are.

Kurt Cobain



*I don't know if there's life
after this,
Lord knows I've never been
a spiritual man . . .
You know I'm searching
for something,
something so undefined that
it can only be seen by the
eyes of the blind . . .*

Billy Joel



SURVEY SAYS

The results of a recent Gallup poll:

- 89% of college students believe
in God.
- 91% of college students believe
in life after death.
- 70% of college students believe
in a literal heaven and hell.

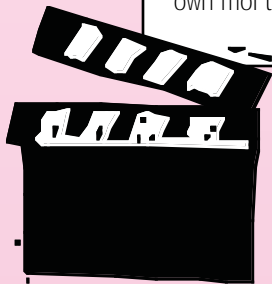


REFLECT

What do I believe and why?

You have to deny the reality to go on
every day. But for me even with all the
distractions of my work and my life, I
spend a lot of time face to face with my
own mortality.

Woody Allen



WHAT IF . . .

What if your belief about the afterlife
is wrong?

It would be difficult to take a
close look at all the different
views. But there is one view
that you ought to carefully
consider.



CRITICAL THINKING

As an historical figure, what is true of Jesus' influence which separates Him from all others?



SAY WHAT?

Which of these did Jesus *never* teach?

1. God helps those who help themselves.
2. I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me.
3. There is one God but many paths to him.
4. God loves the world. If you accept it, God is the world.
5. Follow Me and great will be your reward on earth.



JESUS' VIEW

What does Jesus teach about life after death?

13 "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

—John 3:13-21

What does Jesus teach about all men?

What does Jesus claim about Himself?



CONTEXT

The Gospel of John is an account of Jesus' life and teaching as recorded by His disciple and intimate friend, the apostle John.



INSIGHT

In the Old Testament, Moses raised a bronze snake upon a pole so that those who looked upon it would experience healing from the punishment of their disobedience (Numbers 21:8).

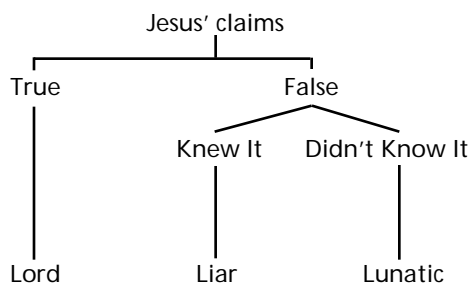
What is the analogy Jesus is making?

What does it mean to believe on Him?



ETERNAL LIFE
John 17:4

SON OF GOD, LIAR OR LUNATIC



SUMMARIZE

Can all these views be true?
Why or why not?

What difference does this make?



REAL LIFE

During Damon's three hours of brain surgery, doctors removed a tumor and tissue mass the size and shape of an ice cream cone. Five weeks of radiation treatment were scheduled. The doctors' prognosis: "If cancer doesn't return during the next five years, you've probably beat it. But we can't be completely sure."

Damon, then a student at California Polytechnic University at Pomona, recalled, "For the first time I had to face the fear that lingered in the back of my mind, 'I could die.' Questions surfaced: How should I live out what could be potentially the last five years of my life? God, are you here and do you care? How can I know that I'll spend life after death with you? It showed me how close the line is between what you believe about the afterlife and how you live your life."



REFLECT

If you were presented with the same news Damon received, how would you live your life differently?

What steps, if any, would you take toward God?



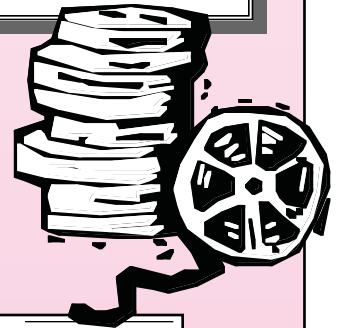
THE REST OF THE STORY

Damon went on to say, "After reading a great deal of philosophy and self-help books with little comfort, I placed my faith in Jesus Christ. I can't express to you, when faced with my own death, how significant it was to know I had a relationship with God and know that when I died I would really live."



And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

—1 John 5:11-13



Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

—James 4:14



CHALLENGE

1. Honestly pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you. By faith, look for God's answer.
2. Read the Gospel of John. Write down your questions to discuss with someone who can help you answer them.
3. Don't just test ideas, test lives. Go with someone to church, or a fellowship meeting. See how they live.
4. Make a decision. To indefinitely put off the decision is equal to a passive rejection.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

Read 1 Corinthians 15—The apostle Paul's views of death and resurrection.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.