

GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS!



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VIRTUAL

The devil makes it easy to just go through the motions—whether assembling at church or worshipping in a virtual setting—but worshipping God is *more* than going through the motions—it is *trusting* Him and *serving* Him like true believers of the first century. Just going through the motions is not thinking about what we are doing or hearing or reading.

The question to ask: What is God's *purpose* and *plan* for my life here; Is it *more* than just living; *more* than going to school or work; *more* than having friends and playing sports, or doing things we like to do!—Yes, there is *more* to this life than *going through the motions*—because there is *much* more *after* this life!

It was said; *He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.* Most would have to agree. Psalm 14:1 “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*” For those who are *not* willing to depend on God by faith each day, but instead choose to depend on money put aside in a bank, the following applies—Luke 12:20 “*God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*”

Everyone is *One Breath Away from Eternity!* That compels us to consider what our heart attitude really is—it is of *vital* importance.

Proverbs 4:23 “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*” Psalm 34:18 “*The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite [repentant] spirit.*”

We should ask: *Where will we be 3,000,000 years from now!* That makes us *think* and *pray* to God for a right heart attitude toward *Him*; toward His *Word*; and toward *everyone*—which includes actually *trusting* on the Atonement of Christ for all that God has promised—health, healing, protection, forgiveness, and everything provided. Romans 4:16 “*Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed*”—of faithful Abraham.

If people were asked: *What is the most important thing in life*, many would say: *Family and friends*; or: *Faith in God*—which is a right answer, because only by *faith* in God, could anyone really *know* where they are going. 1 John 5:13 “*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*”

A recent poll said: 8 in 10 Americans *believe* in some sort of *afterlife*; and 79% agree that every person has a *soul* that will live forever—either in God's *presence* or His *absence*. With that many believing in an *afterlife*, we would think many *more* would make sure their *faith* and *trust* is in Jesus for every life issue. Acts 4:12 “*For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*”

We often do not realize it, but we all put faith in many things. When we drive, we have faith that other drivers will stop at the red light; faith that a bridge will hold the weight of our vehicle; or faith that the mechanic who worked on our brakes did the work correctly. It's not the *amount* of faith we have, but the *object* of that faith.

We must be sure that we are *believing* and *trusting* in the One who is *true* and will always be *true* and *faithful*. Many believe there *is* life after death, and also believe they enter Heaven by *faith*, but the issue is whether the *object* of their faith is trustworthy and true. The prophet says Isaiah 46:9 “*Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.*”

Each day we are all one day *closer* to *eternity* than we were *yesterday!* No one can be wrong about the *next* life; and no one can *ignore* it; but everyone has to ask *God* for *wisdom*, *guidance*, and the *ability* to trust Him. Everyone has *one life* to get it right, and *one opportunity* to be right with God—it is *this* life God has given us. Our *eternity* hinges on our *decisions* in this life.

Joshua 24:15 “*Choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” There is only one God to *serve*; one God to *trust*; one faith in Christ to *keep*; and one Spirit who *inspires* faith in God.

Heaven is so critically important to *everyone*, that God has *promised* it to *everyone!*—everyone, that is, who is willing to *believe* His *doctrine* and willing to *trust* in His Son! Believers are promised a *living* Titus 1:2 “*Hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.*”

The world is just “*not willing*” Matthew 23:37 to trust an unseen God for things in this life; they are *not willing* to put their dependence on the atonement Blood of Christ, so their *verbal* faith is vain. There is *more* to this life than just *going through the motions*—it is being *faithful* to trust God every day for every thing.

God has *promised* and Jesus has *predicted*—there *will* be a day of reckoning. We will give

an account—Why we lived as we lived; or Why we judged others, but not ourselves. Romans 14:12 “Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Jesus will return; Matthew 25:33-34 “And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Those on His right hand followed God’s plan of life by faith in Him. They knew it is more than going through the motions.

Those who did *not* allow God to prepare them for eternity—by letting Him take *self* out of their heart and replacing it with His Spirit—are the *unwilling* ones on the left Matthew 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” That is a serious *price* to pay for being *rebellious* and *unrepentant*!

It takes little faith to believe that there was a *designer* and *builder* of a skyscraper—we just look at the *evidence* and know. The best evidence we could have of a *designer* is the *work* of a *builder*—and the best evidence we have of a *Creator* is the *work* of His *creation*. Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”

It really takes more *faith* to believe that there is *no* God, than to believe that there *is* a God. Something does *not* come from nothing by itself—but that is what the *world* chooses to believe—the Big Bang theory; that a huge *explosion* is how the universe was formed and life on earth began.

The one who conceived the evolution theory said: *To suppose that the human eye, with all its incomparable mechanisms for adjusting for focus*

to different distances; for admitting different amounts of light; and for the corrections of spherical and chromatic variations, could have been formed by ‘natural selection,’ seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree unquote.

The human eye can function from deep darkness to bright sunlight; it can see an object the diameter of a hair; and the eye makes approximately 100,000 separate movements each day. Evolution says that *living* matter came from *non-living* matter, but this has been shown to be impossible. *Life* can come only from *life*.

There cannot be an *effect* without a *cause*; and the effect cannot be greater *than* its cause. Therefore, the only possibility *is* that life came from a living Creator—the God of the universe. After examining the evidence—and only a small part of the total amount of such evidence—we can determine that scientists do *not* have proof for the theory of evolution.

We *know* there is a divine Creator, because there is evidence of His existence. We also need to know, however, of His character; love, mercy, and eternal plan for humans. We *know* that God is the Creator; we *know* that Jesus is the Messiah; and we *know* that 1 John 3:8 “The Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” We *also* know that He *will* return.

Beginning life with a rebellious heart and sinful attitude that *cannot* enter Heaven, is a reminder of the spiritual work that must be done in US. Romans 5:19 “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners;” but 6:4 “we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

This *newness of life* is a new life of *trust* on God for real life issues; it is *believing* in faith by the power of His Spirit for the forgiveness we

need and a right attitude toward everyone and everything—just as we believe God in faith for any other answer to prayer.

Adam brought guilt on us all by rebelling; but Jesus removed the guilt by sacrificing—Himself. There is *more* to life than just *going through the motions*—it is actively putting our faith and trust on the Atonement Blood of Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:22 “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”—when we put our faith in Him for things in this life.

Repentance every day is the issue—because Luke 13:3 “Unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Protection from perishing is *only* by an enduring faith on the Blood of Jesus. Everyone gives an account to God—*everyone*! Hebrews 4:13 “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight.” Faith in God is *so* important, because John 5:29 “They that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation.”

There is *more* to life than just living; it is walking by faith every day in the living God of the Bible. It is *believing* Him and *trusting* Him for everything, every day. John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” Going through the motions of actual *faith in God* leads to *life eternal*!



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