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MARTHA 5

Consideration of the Question of the Afterlife

Lu. 13: 22-30

Whether we study it philosophically or religiously no question can have a greater effect on the way we live our lives than our view of the afterlife -

it will have a hearing on everything we do in this life

In the mag. '87

Psychology Today - poll says 70% of the U.S. population do believe in an afterlife. Freud said it's hard to believe there is no afterlife (and he was an atheist)

In Life after Life by Moody he lists the visions people had as they neared death & then came back - they say their life is permanently changed by their near-death experience.

There are only a few ways to look at the afterlife options - 3 general categories outside of the Christian view

Naturalism - Humanism

I Atheistic view - believes that there is no afterlife - at the moment you die you are non-existent. This view should have a significant effect on how you ~~live~~ live your life.

E.g. The way to bring this view into focus is to imagine that this room is the world ~~and its~~ and we are the world's population. We have 3 hrs. to enjoy this party ^{from 9-12 P.M.} we can do anything we want for 3 hrs. Then we get taken out and shot - or die a slow death

Consideration of the question of the afterlife

Whether we think of philosophically or religiously

we give our lives to the afterlife

life

view of the afterlife

Life after death

2.11 of the population

poll

Trends

so

no

Life after death

visions

death

life

changed

3 general categories

Naturalism - Humanism

Aesthetic view

I

no

afterlife
existent

live your life

words

e.g.

3 ways

1-15 p. 11

2nd - or 3rd way

② This is a death party - Will this have an effect on how we will enjoy the party?
~~It's hard to enjoy a death party, isn't it?~~
~~We don't have many of such parties & they are unpopular~~

But to the atheist life can really be viewed this way - sure it's not 3 hrs, it's 60-80 yrs. but it's still a finite time - your life is over - you never know what you did - + this raises the real question: what does it matter what you do?

Existentialist
Atheist

Jan Paul Sartre says life is absurd - nothing is meaningful - relationships or accomplishments are meaningless so he wrote a book called Nausea to describe life

Why sit for the full 3hr. party trying to fill up the time (often suffering) why not go out now & call it quits?
Author Albert Camus - says the deepest philosophical question one can ask "Why not commit suicide?"

Change Suicides
1950-77 - suicides quadrupled for males

But even atheists have a hard time living according to their belief of nothingness after death - they want meaning & fulfillment just like we all do. We cannot live as though we are just a fortuitous conglomeration of protoplasm we want significance - both now & after life

What's the real difference between the Christian & the atheist? Is it that we believe in hell & the atheist does not. No! We both believe in hell - the atheist just doesn't believe in heaven, he believes this life is hell - he lives, his life is meaningless & at death he goes off into oblivion.

But we as Christians believe in heaven & that life is very meaningful - eternally meaningful

