

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

Text: Exodus 11:7

INTRO: There are differences in every area of life. Some are important, some unimportant. In the things of God, the differences are important.

I. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOING TO HEAVEN & GOING TO HELL. Matt 25:34, 41, 46

- A. Heaven is always described as beautiful, valuable, pleasant.
- B. Hell is always described in terms of darkness, pain, misery.

II. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TRUTH & A LIE.

- A. We know what the Bible teaches about lying, Rev 21:8.
- B. But we don't always realize the consequences of believing a lie.

2 Thess 2:9-12, The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, & with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who

did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1. Eve, Gen. 3:1-6
2. The Judean prophet, 1 Kings 13:18.

III. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S WAYS & MAN'S WAYS. Isa. 55:8-9.

Gal 1:6-11. If it's the truth, it's not my way, but God's way. Truth does not need anything from me to validate it, nor can I invalidate it. "God said it... That settles it."

IV. IT MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO US.

Matt 22:1-5, And Jesus answered & spoke to them again by parables & said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, & sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen & fatted cattle are killed, & all things are ready. Come to the wedding." ' "But they made light of it & went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

NOTE: People may be out of a lot of things: eggs, butter, gasoline... but they never seem to run out of excuses.

V. IT MUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN US.

Eph 4:25-32, Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. Be angry, & do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, & evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Does that describe my life? It should. No person to whom it makes no difference has ever benefited by hearing or knowing God's will.

VI. IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR US.

A. Some say, "I'm not good enough."

1 Tim 1:15, Christ died to save sinners.

B. "I'm as good as brother ____." That's not the point! No one will be saved by being good enough. Rom 3:10, 23.

C. The difference in destiny will not be that some sinned & others did not. It will not be that some sinned few sins & other sinned many. It will not be that some committed big sins & others committed little sins. It will be that some met the conditions of forgiveness & others did not choose to do so. Acts 2:36-38; Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9.

Exton, PA, April 10, 1988
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 14, 1988 (meeting)
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, June 22, 1988
Pruett & Lobit, Baytown, TX, June 26, 1988
College Park, Deer Park, TX, June 26, 1988
Lancaster Co., PA, July 31, 1988
Northside, Clovis, NM, June 18, 1989
Eastside, Indianapolis, IN, April 23, 1990 (meeting)
Blue Ridge, VA, October 4, 1990
La Porte, TX, November 25, 1990
Tri-State, Ashland, KY, June 25, 1991 (meeting)
Imhoff Ave., Port Arthur, TX, August 2, 1993 (meeting)
Westview, Athens, AL, May 16, 1996 (meeting)
Wonsley Drive, Austin, TX, April 5, 1998 (meeting)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 11, 1998
Benchley, Bryan, TX, June 11, 2000
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 9, 2006