

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

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Where Do We Go



When We Die?



Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

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Where Do We Go When We Die?

In II Timothy 4:6 the great apostle Paul writes, “...the time has come for my departure.” The word “departure” Paul is using here is a military term. It means the taking down of your tent in order to move to a new

assignment. The new assignment Paul was preparing for was not another earthly city or town, it was the great city of heaven. He knew that the time of his death was near and he was looking forward to it with great expectation. He went on to say in verses 7-8, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept

the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day-- and not just to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

Paul was excited about going home to heaven because he knew that even though life is a gift from God to be treasured and treated with great care, we will never find ultimate satisfaction here on earth, because we were created for another world.

When the great professional golfer, Payne Stewart, was killed in an airplane crash, one of his closest friends on the tour, Paul Azinger, said this: “We (Christians) are not in the land of the living who are going to the land of the

dying. We’re in the land of the dying who are going to the land of the living.”

He was right. The Bible says that we will all die and unless Jesus comes again in our lifetime, death we be a fact of life for all of us.

Many Christians have a fear and a dread of death, because they don’t understand what the Bible says about death.

The minute we are born, we begin to die. This was never God’s plan because God created us to live forever, to never grow old and to never die. Death came into the world as a result of sin and rebellion against God and His plan for our lives.

Death is a reality, there is no way around it. Sometimes, especially when we’re young,

we think that death will never touch us. Oh, we know intellectually we will die one day, but we assume that it is so far out in the future it isn’t worth thinking about. Death is something that only old people think about, right? But the truth is that none of us, no matter how young, are promised tomorrow, and death is something for which we need to always be prepared.

Someone has said that you can’t really be ready to live, until you are ready to die. Because the apostle Paul had settled his eternity and could look forward with anticipation to heaven, he was able to live a full, rich and rewarding life without fear or concern for the future. Many Christians have a fear and a

dread of death, because they don't understand what the Bible says about death and what they have to look forward to. As a result, they aren't able to live their lives in freedom and anticipation.

If your family has ever leased or rented an apartment or a house and then purchased a brand new house, you know the joy of moving from a place that wasn't really yours to a home of your own. That is what death is like for a Christian. Death is like simply moving from a place that wasn't really yours, to your real home. Jesus purchased your new house (actually your mansion!) with His blood. It has been paid for in full. When it is completely ready for you, God will call you home. You need to know that as a Christian you won't have to make that move alone.

The Bible says at the moment of death, God sends angels to accompany you into heaven (Luke 16:22). You do not have to fear the death experience if you are a Christian because the angels will give you a personal escort into the very presence of your Heavenly Father. What will your new home be like?

The apostle John, after having been exiled to the Isle of Patmos, was given a glimpse of the heavenly city and he recorded for us what he saw in the book of the Revelation. We know much about it because of the glorious description John gives us. Heaven will be a very real city, more real than any city in which you have ever lived before. It has dimensions,

gates, mansions, streets, and inhabitants. The Bible tells us that the walls of that city are made of jasper, and the foundations of the walls are made of precious stones of every kind; sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, and amethyst.

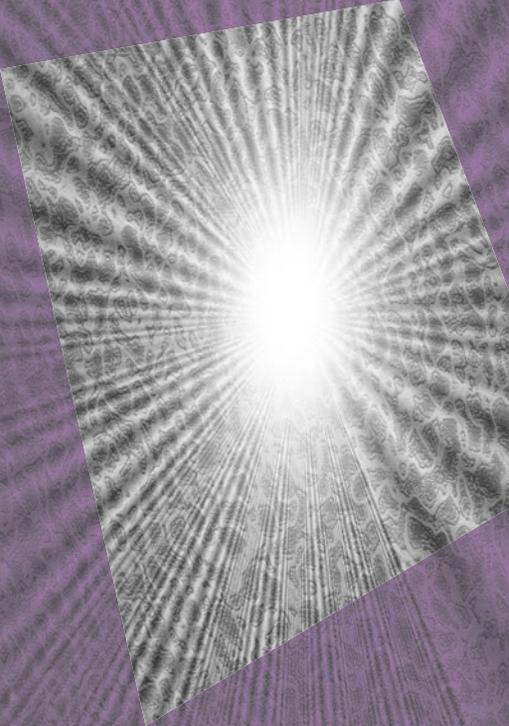
The streets are made of pure gold, like transparent glass. If you have ever lived in a major city with great skyscrapers that have walls of glass, then you know that the buildings are transformed into a pure gold color at sunset. Can you imagine how the city of heaven will glow in the light of the Son of God? The presence of God internally lights the whole city, and there is no night there, the Bible says.

This city will be inhabited by angels and the saints from throughout all the ages (that includes us!) The gates of the city will never be closed and we will not be confined to the heavenly city. We will have the freedom to go in and out of the gates, exploring the New Earth and the New Heavens, ruling and reigning with Christ. This is a place where we will not be limited by time or space. Heaven is not going to be a place of boredom or inactivity, but rather a place of adventure, where we will have work to do and an active, purposeful, joyful life.

In Revelation 21:1-5 it says, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people and God

Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away'"

Can you imagine? A city where there is no loneliness, no pain, suffering, crime, hate, fighting, war, grief, or death--a city where there is only fairness and justice, love, peace, joy, kindness, and compassion. And because there will be no sin, there will be no rust or decay, no germs or decomposition, no weeds, or trash, no ugliness of any kind. This is a city that is filled with every kind of indescribable beauty. A city with weather, according to the scriptures. It says in Revelation 22:2 there will be fruit to eat in season in the heavenly city, so there will undoubtedly have a variety of climates to go with those seasons.



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The descriptions of heaven in the Bible are very precise and “real.” Jesus told His followers that He was going to prepare a place for them, and that in His Father’s house were many mansions. Think about this: God only had six days to create this beautiful world in which we live. Jesus has had 2000 years to be preparing heaven for us. Can you imagine how glorious it is going to be! One of the greatest joys in eternity will be the great reunion we will have with our friends and family who moved to heaven before we did. We will have unending opportunities to relax and enjoy our relationships. And think about this: Can you imagine the wonderful conversations that you are going to have in heaven when you spend eternity with all the great historical and biblical characters of the faith? All the knowledge and the secrets of the universe will be at your fingertips. And how incredible will it be to sit at the feet of Jesus and ask him all the unanswered questions of life! Every trial, persecution, misunderstanding, and problem of life will immediately fade away when we see Jesus. Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to have walked with Jesus on this earth as the disciples did? Well, we will get to live with Him for eternity!

While God has shown us much in the Bible about heaven, we still only know a fraction of

what is to come. There is simply no way for our human tongues to describe, or our human minds to conceive, what glorious things await us in heaven for eternity. As much as we have to look forward to, the greatest part of heaven will be the awesome privilege to join the millions around the throne of God to sing praises to our Savior throughout eternity--to worship the One who took our sin and died in our place so that we might live with Him forever and enjoy all the wonders and the splendors of heaven.

That is just a glimpse of what awaits you if you are a Christian. For those who die without Christ, eternity will be very, very different. There is only one alternative to Heaven and that is in another very real place that the Bible calls hell.

Many people say that they don’t believe in a literal hell because they don’t believe that a “loving God would send anyone to hell.” There is a technical term called “universalism” that describes this belief that God will ultimately forgive everyone. This idea is probably more an issue in our society today because we have allowed permissiveness to creep into our thinking in the last generation. From child-rearing to the criminal justice system we have come to believe that wrong-doing shouldn’t be punished. That our circumstances, or our environment, or our parents, or our friends, or the way we were raised, or our economic or social status is an excuse for our wrong choices; there-

fore, we are not to blame and shouldn’t be held accountable. This very wrong and deadly way of thinking has also affected our view of God, and many have come to believe that God will simply let them off the hook on judgement day.

Yes, of course God is a loving God. In fact, He is much more than that. He IS love. He loves because of who He is and not as a response to anything in us. He is also holy. That holiness demands that sin be paid for. There are two important truths here that you must understand. First, God never intended that hell be for humans. It was designed for the devil and all his demons. It was God’s plan and His design that man live forever in perfect fellowship with Him. But when humans willfully sin, that sin must be paid for. Secondly, God never SENDS any one to hell. In choosing to reject the free gift of salvation that God has graciously offered mankind through Jesus Christ, people CHOOSE HELL.

It is God’s will that no one perish and that everyone be saved. He did everything He possibly could to keep people out of hell. He has warned us over and over again what will happen if we sin, and He has given us a free will to choose whether or not to obey Him.

We have all made the wrong choice, so God became flesh and came to earth to pay for all our wrong choices! He put up an old rugged cross at the entrance to hell. The only way for a person to go there is to deliberately go around that cross. The sin debt has been paid by Jesus. Now the decision you must make is to accept Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for your sin, or to pay for that sin yourself in a very real place called hell for eternity. When you really think about it, the amazing thing is not that people go to hell, but that sinners can go to heaven!

Jesus spoke more in the Bible about hell than He did about heaven. The descriptions of hell are of total darkness, isolation, and the awful “lake of fire.” We know from the scripture that it is a real place of indescribable horror

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Heaven is for those who have given the control of their lives to God and put Him on the throne of their hearts.

--a place of torment in every way; physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. We can't understand completely what it is like, but just from what Jesus described, we should know enough to understand that we don't want to go there.

We each have two options in this life. We can either allow God to be god in our lives, and submit to His Lordship, or we can decide to be our own god, just as Satan did. If we choose to sit on the throne of our own heart, the price we will pay will be the same that Satan is going to pay. Hell is for those who are their own gods. Heaven is for those who have given the control of their lives to God and put Him on the throne of their hearts.

If you are one who continues to reject Jesus as Savior, think about this: Either Jesus is right or you are right. The Bible and fulfilled prophecy prove that Jesus is who He said He is, and that His words are true. Jesus said that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one goes to be with the Father, but by Him. He also said that hell is a real place where sin will be punished for eternity. Are you willing to gamble your eternity? Would you not be open at least to hearing one more time about the amazing salvation story and the incredible love of God for you? Listen again...

The Bible starts out by telling us what God did. "In the beginning God created..." The Bible says God created the entire universe out of nothing, and then He made His greatest

creation - man and woman. God created Adam and Eve to be like Him. He gave the man and woman perfect bodies and a perfect environment. God intended that they would never grow old and never die.

Can you imagine? A beautiful, perfect place to live and everything they could possibly want or need. They lived in a world with no pain, sorrow, suffering, hate, war, violence, sickness or death. But most important of all, they had a perfect relationship with God. They knew God's unconditional love and acceptance, so they had a perfect sense of self-worth. As a result, Adam and Eve were able to love and accept themselves, so they had a perfect relationship with each other.

Now God had told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the Garden EXCEPT the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" growing in the middle of the Garden. In Genesis 2:9 the Bible tells us that there were two trees that grew in the middle of the Garden of Eden. The "tree of life" which represented a dependent relationship with God, doing things His way, and allowing Him to be God, and the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil," which represented independence from God, doing things our own way, trying to be "as God." Well, you know the story--Satan cleverly did several things:

- He got Adam and Eve to take their eyes off all that God had given them, and focus on the one thing God had said they couldn't have.

- He got them to doubt God's goodness, wisdom and love.
- He convinced Adam and Eve they could meet their own needs better than God, and that they could even do a better job of being in charge of their own lives than God.

Satan's lie was: There is something you can DO to become like God, to be in control, to be your own God. Adam and Eve bought into this lie, and made a choice with their wills to rebel and do things their own way. The very second that they made the choice to rebel and sin, evil in every form entered the world. Adam and Eve started to grow old as death came into the world for the first time.

Where there had been a perfect environment there was now pain, sickness and disease. But the most serious of all the consequences of sin was that Adam and Eve became spiritually dead, and could no longer have fellowship with holy God. At that point, God could have said, "forget it!" and wiped them and all creation out with a single word. But because His love is so great, God immediately went to work to provide a way to pay for man's sins.

The Bible says in Hebrews 9:22 that God chose blood to be payment for sin. In Leviticus 17:11 it says that blood represents life. Only one thing conquers death, and that is life, so God chose blood. The first thing God did after Adam and Eve sinned was to kill an animal. The skin from the animal covered their nakedness, and the animal's blood

was a sacrifice, a payment for their sin. God then promised that one day He would send a perfect sacrifice to be the final payment for sin.

You see, justice requires that we pay for what we do wrong. Because God is totally just, He required that all sin would have to be





paid for, and God knew that the only one qualified to pay for the sin of the whole world was someone who had never sinned himself. So 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ, God's only Son, left all the beauty and splendor of heaven and came to this earth to be the once-and-for-all, final sacrifice for sin, and to die in your place and in mine, so that if we would accept what He did on the cross as payment for our sin, we could be forgiven and made right with God.

But God will never force Himself on anyone, because when God created us, He gave us all a wonderful gift. That gift is a FREE WILL. God could have easily made us like robots or puppets who have no choice other than to do what their Creator directs them to do. But God's love for us is so great that He made every human with a free will, and He never, under any circumstances, will take that away. God wants us to be free to choose to love or not to love Him, to obey or not to obey. God warns us not to sin, gives us a free will to choose, then God becomes a man to pay for our wrong choices! AWESOME!

Our sin deserved the full fury of God's anger and punishment, because sin is a direct attack on God's holiness, and God can't overlook even one sin; it all must be punished. Jesus, the perfect, sinless Son of God, willingly took our punishment and became the pay-

ment for all sin when He died a horrible death on the cross.

All our blame and shame, our sins and failures, have been paid for. Jesus took them, so we wouldn't have to.

**He paid a debt He did not owe
I owed a debt I could not pay
I needed someone to wash my sin away
And now I sing a brand new song
Amazing Grace, all day long
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.**

You may be a person who doesn't have a new song to sing, because you have never accepted God's gift of eternal life. He offers you a new life and a new beginning, free from condemnation and blame. Jesus will give you love, acceptance, joy, peace, fulfillment, and an exciting life here on this earth. In addition to all that and so much more, He'll take you to heaven when you die to be with Him forever.

The choice is yours. Salvation (being saved, being born again, becoming a Christian, accepting Christ as your Savior) is a FREE GIFT from God. But, like any other gift offered to you, it isn't yours until you reach out and take it. How do you do that?

1. Admit that you are a sinner, and that you are in need of God's forgiveness (Romans 3:23)

2. Repent of your sin which is being god in your own life (Luke 13:3)

3. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin, accept Him as your Savior, and give the control of your life to Him (Romans 10:13)

The way you talk to Him about being saved may go something like this:

"Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I know my sin must be paid for. I accept Your death on the cross as that payment for my sin. Please forgive me of all my sin, come into my heart right now and save me. I give you the control of my life, and ask You to be my Lord and Savior. Please take me to heaven when I die to live with you forever, and help me to live for You until that time. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me. Amen."

The words are not magic. What matters to God is what is in your heart. If you prayed that prayer, and meant it, then Jesus did exactly what you asked Him to do. You may not see lights flash or hear bells ring, but in a split-second of time, something supernatural and

miraculous will take place. You are a new person in Christ, with your reservations made for heaven!

Aren't the unconditional love of God and the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross for you enough to make you say "yes" to Him? In light of eternity, this life is so short. Nothing that this world has to offer you could ever compare to the riches that await the born-again child of God in heaven, and the full and free abundant life that Jesus offers on this earth.

There are only two days on the calendar that count. "Today" and "the" day that you stand before God in judgement. What you decide "today" will determine what will happen on "the" day and where you will spend eternity. Heaven is a real place. Hell is a real place. The choice is up to you.

