

## Taking it Home

- In some circles today it is popular to erase the idea of hell as eternal punishment apart from God. Like the Sadducees it is popular to twist scripture to believe that there is no eternal existence for those who do not trust Jesus. What does Matthew 25:31-46 teach us about our eternity? Why does this matter today?
  
- Death is sin's last (temporary) victory in our life. Moses, David, Job, Jesus, Paul and so many others who have followed Yahweh believe in the resurrection of the dead to eternal life.
  
- How do you find solace and hope in the writings of Paul from 1 Corinthians 15?
  - Have you received the good news of Jesus presented in vv. 1-8?
  
  - How do you respond to the truth of v 19?
  
- Can you with confidence celebrate the victory of Christ over death as Paul did in his taunting relate to his taunting of death in vv. 54:57?
  
- As you contemplate the eternity of your life, remember that we grieve over death and we rejoice in the resurrection. Allow Paul's encouragement in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 to encourage you that our grief is temporary. One day all of our tears will be wiped away and we will be with Jesus in the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21:4). Hallelujah!

Things That Are God's  
God of the Living  
Mark 12:18-27

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
March 15, 2015

---

## God of the Living

### Notes:

# At Home Study Guide

For the week of March 15, 2015

Mark 12:18-27

---

## Quick Review

It would be dangerous to gloss over the sense of urgency in Mark's letter to his church, the Gospel of Mark. History tells us that the Roman government regularly killed Christians because of their faith. Every day Mark's young church faced the life and death decision to follow Jesus or deny Him. Choosing to believe that God loved them and sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue them from sin and death was for many a choice to leave this earthly life as a martyr. While others sung the praise of the emperor, Mark's church sung about Jesus. They placed their faith, not in the government but in the person of Jesus. Wanting a sense of purpose and meaning, they turned to Jesus. When the world told them their desires could be satisfied in the temporary, they turned to the eternal. Pride and possessions were no match for the hope they found in Jesus. The regular, persistent threat of life surfaced many questions for pastor Mark. His answer to their questions about life after death can be found in the controversy stirred up by the Sadducees in Mark 12 as Jesus responds to an absurd accusation.

## My Story

- What stood out to you most about the message from Sunday? Did Pastor Matthew use any memory devices to help you remember the main points?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Who do you know that doesn't want to believe in heaven in hell? Why do you think they struggle with these ideas?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What effect does your view of life after death have on your day to day living?

## Growing Deeper

- The question the Sadducees present to Jesus is really an absurd question. The likelihood of seven brothers marrying one woman is so far fetched it is designed to make Jesus and the Mosaic teaching look foolish. List the responses to Jesus' teaching in Mark 12:12, 17, 28, 34, and 37.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- As background to Mark 12, read and summarize Deuteronomy 25:5-10. God had made a covenant with His people to provide land, descendants, and blessing (Genesis 12 and 15). To provide a son for your brother's widow carried on the family name and insured the land would stay in the family. Contrast Onan and Boaz as they respond to this teaching: Genesis 38:6-10 and Ruth 4.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- The Sadducees convinced themselves using scripture that there was no life after death. With a hyper focus on the writings of Moses (Genesis thru Deuteronomy), they failed to listen to Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2 and the Psalms (16:9-11; 49:15; 73:23-26). How do these passages as well as Job 19:25-26 give you confidence that there is life after death?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Yahweh is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is faithful despite the unfaithfulness of His people. He hears the cries of His people and He responds. What does God's name in Exodus 3:14 say about His person and character?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If you are living in Rome and daily facing persecution and death how would Jesus' words in Mark 8:31; 9:9, 31; 10:34 reassure you?