

IS THIS LIFE ALL THERE IS?

Note to the speaker:

Many people see no meaning in their lives. Audience needs to see that our hope for the future, including the resurrection, supports the meaning and purpose of our lives. This hope is sure. We can pursue real purpose in our life now, cultivating this hope and avoiding the world's live-for-today attitude. Last section of talk should especially be directed to new ones and the public

FRUSTRATIONS OF THIS LIFE LEAD MANY TO FRANTIC SEARCH FOR MEANING (6 min.)

Young and old often question and reject age-old goals of mankind

Wealth has contributed to anxieties, not always satisfying (Ec 2:4-11; *w77* 59; *w88* 8/15 18; *w86* 6/15 3, 10)

Fame is only transitory; people are soon forgotten (Ec 2:15, 16; *w77* 78-9; *w87* 8/15 10-11)

Power is temporary; person may be replaced by a rival; surely will end by death (*w76* 626)

Beauty also quickly fades (*g86* 1/8 14-15)

Life's accomplishments do not amount to much in eternal time

Soon one is gone and forgotten (Ps 103:15, 16)

This is not a cynical but a realistic view

If this life is all there is, we are not even a drop in stream of time or a speck on scales of eternity (*w73* 325-30; *g87* 1/22 12)

HOW THE RESURRECTION HOPE HELPS US (15 min.)

People have long clung to hope of life beyond death (*g88* 7/8 4-7)

Many believe in doctrines based on immortality of soul (*rs* 379-80; *sh* 52-6)

Some think that good go to heaven; others believe in transmigration of souls, Nirvana (*gh* 103-5; *w90* 5/1 18-19)

Bible shatters all such false teachings (Ec 3:19, 20; 9:5, 10; *w90* 5/1 19-23)

So, is this life all there is? Is there no hope?

Bible assures us that God will resurrect many people (Ac 24:15; *g78* 11/8 3-5; *ts* 166-75; *lp* 116-18)

This is not a fanciful, unfounded hope

Jesus promised resurrection will occur under his Kingdom (Joh 5:28, 29)

He demonstrated that humans can be resurrected (Lu 7:11-17; *w86* 12/15 8-9)

But what about a person long dead, whose body has disintegrated?

God can re-create that person; suitable body and thoughts restored (*vi* 28)

DNA in single cell contains coded instruction for billions of cells (*ce* 48)

Creator of DNA has capacity to remember life pattern of a person if He chooses to do so

This life need not be all there is (*g80* 5/22 5-9; *g67* 6/22 6-7)

Resurrection is a means of accomplishing God's purpose

God purposes for obedient humans to have eternal life in perfection

Such life would have meaning (*w73* 326)

Would not be cut short or frustrated by death (*g70* 10/8 14-17; *w84* 8/15 4; *g90* 4/22 9)

The damage done by Adamic death is not irreversible

Resurrection can take the sting out of death (1Co 15:55)

Helps person to understand one major thing that gives meaning to life (Ec 12:13, 14; *w78* 1/1 31)

OUR LIFE TODAY CAN BE ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL (5 min.)

We live at a time when people can escape ever dying

Now live in 'the conclusion of this system of things' (Mt 24:3; *g88* 4/8 7 [box], 11 [box])

Can enter right into endless life (*ts* 151-65; *w90* 5/1 28)

As to the resurrection, the question is, Will God choose to remember a certain person and resurrect him?

For each of us the question is, Will God find *me* worthy of preservation into the new world under Christ's Kingdom?

If answer is yes, then this life, even now, is *not* all there is

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES KNOW THAT LIFE HAS REAL PURPOSE (9 min.)

They know that this life is not all there is; have confidence in new world

Not groping to find the meaning of life (*g80* 10/22 6-11)

They have found that following God's counsel is best way of life

Apply God's Word in their own lives; results are happy families

One who becomes a Witness is part of a loving congregation of people

Although Witnesses are not living just for the present, they enjoy a rich life (*w73* 401-6)

Love for Jehovah moves Witnesses to obey him despite opposition (2Ti 3:12)

Reporter Milo Komínek in book *Even Under the Sky There Is Hell* (1971) described integrity of Witnesses in Communist labor camps in Czechoslovakia during 1951: "I will always remember with admiration and recognition Jehovahists, mostly young boys, who refused military duty and were condemned for it. Even here they remained in their faith, that work for war is sin, and they refused to work in uranium mines. Commanders of the camps used everything they had at their disposition to force them to do the work, but everything they tried was in vain; most of them would rather die than work in building the Soviet atomic threat. The chief of the camp Palacek made them stand for days in front of headquarters in snowdrifts in the [-]30° C. [-22° F.] winter weather, pouring water on them till they were frozen. It was a terrible sight, which will haunt me till I die" (*w74* 373)

Belief in resurrection strengthens one to be faithful despite danger of death (2Co 1:8, 9; Heb 12:1-3)

Witnesses know that this life is not all there is

NEED TO CULTIVATE THE RIGHT VIEWPOINT (10 min.)

Those who know that this life is not all there is should reflect this conviction by their associations and activities

In first century C.E., Christians believed in resurrection

Did not accept pagan teaching of immortality of soul or live-for-today philosophy

But some began to deny the actuality of the resurrection; hence, these adopted the view that this life is all there is (1Co 15:12, 32b; *w82* 4/1 17-18)

Paul strongly refuted this view (1Co 15:3-8, 13-19; *w81* 12/15 18; *w84* 10/1 30-1)

Avoid association with those who deny the resurrection or think that this life is all there is

Such people would urge you to compromise your faith (1Co 15:33; *w88* 6/15 18-19)

They would encourage you to live only for the present (*ts* 12-15)

Jehovah's Witnesses do not live just for the present

Anticipate grand future in new world now near

We invite you to attend meetings regularly at Kingdom Hall and then to qualify to share in our public preaching

This is most worthwhile thing one can do now; it is not in vain (1Co 15:58)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)