

Lessons through a windshield Part IV

Dead End - Welcome home



Proverbs 14:8-12; 16:25

Intro: The story is told of a skeptic who once said to a Christian, " Say George, what would you say if, when you die, you find out there wasn't anything after this life after all"

The Christian responded with a smile and said, "Well I've had a fine time getting ready for heaven anyway" The Christian paused a moment then said to the man " But my friend what would you say when you die if you found out there WAS something after this life??"

Lets think of some spiritual implications surrounding the Dead End sign. This is an important one since on a dead end road in this life we can at least turn around at the end and go back. But not at the dead end sign in the spiritual life.

The ultimate location of this sign

A. Found at the gates of hell. One was actually posted at the beginning of the wide road but the person has ignored it. Notice these verses in Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25

Most men want to go to heaven but they drive the broad road a little too long. You see, Hell is simply truth seen too late. The truth is, that at its gates is a dead end sign and by then there is no turning back.

II. Some other dead end streets man tries in life in order to get to heaven

A. The dead end street of **education**

With enough education man thinks they can think their way out of life's problems and avoid hell. II Timothy 3:7 however speaks of this liberal mindset.

The supposed wisest ones are also probably the most spiritually dead.

To avoid this ultimate dead end sign, the only education you really need is to know the plan of salvation which you and read about later in these thoughts.

How's your education level? Do you know just enough to get to the end of the road and find out it was a dead end street with no turn around. Or do you know enough to let Jesus get you on the right path so that when your life comes to an end you will end up in heaven

B. Then there is the dead end of **church membership**

Hell will forever contain people who slipped onto the dead end street the very moment they put their names on a church role. In their mind that became their ticket into heaven.

How about you, are you a church member without being a Christ member? If you are please notice the sign.

This is not to say church membership is bad. But church membership is, if you don't personally know the Christ who **established** the church, **redeemed** the church and who is coming back **for** his church.

C. Then there is the dead end street of **works**

Just how many works and what kind does it take to get into heaven and miss the dead end??

None on our part, and just one on the part of Christ (The Cross). Because of that one work applied to our lives we will be doers of the word or workers.

Being workers for the right reasons will help us see this sign (Welcome Home)

Being workers for the wrong reasons, like hoping to get there on our merits and not Christ's will only let us see this (Dead End) one.

D. The dead end street of **Baptism**

E. The dead end street of **Sincerity** You can be sincere, but sincerely wrong.

F. The dead end of **trying to keep the law**. James 2:10

G. The dead end street of **confirmation**.

There are many who suffer from this. Confirmation only is not bad but there is a difference between **confirmation** and **transformation**.

If one is to be confirmed let them be confirmed, validated, authenticated, and established by the work, and word of the living Christ because they have first been transformed by His shed blood applied to their lives.

It is not a class no matter how good or holy it may be, but it is the Christ who helps man avoid the dead end sign.

H. Then there is the dead end street of **living by the golden rule**

True salvation can never get us salvation, but true salvation will lead us to practice the golden rule

Finally there is

I. The dead end street of **tithing**.

Getting to heaven is not a matter of how much you give, it revolves around how much Christ gave.

In closing lets remember that there are a lot of these dead end signs in life. As a matter of fact, they are at the beginning and the end of any endeavor leading to the, comfort of the wide road.

On the other hand the welcome home sign is at the end of the narrow road.

Which one of these signs do you most often pursue? Is a dead end sign a worthwhile pursuit with your time and the talents the Lord has blessed you with?

If you are not sure which sign you are looking at, why not read the following and make a choice which street you want to drive on.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)