

The After-Life

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Jesus taught us to say, “Our Father, who art in heaven.” Our faith is based on the realization that there is an after-life.

The next life has been part of our thinking since we were little children. But in this new age of science, it has become fashionable to withhold belief in anything that cannot be proven scientifically. Let me tell you straight up: that statement is a formula for disaster.

Unless you have a personal relationship with the inner life of God, which comes through Christ Our Lord, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. We know this by faith.

These are the kinds of things that science teaches: the distance of planet earth to the moon, the speed of light, and a whole warehouse of useless information, in terms of eternity. Science is of no help. No, let me correct that, science has taught us some lovely things. For instance, we know through science that the Neanderthal man loved flowers and that he buried the dead with tools to help them on their journey in the next-life.

Aha! Belief in an afterlife came early. This supports the truth that belief in the here-after is virtually universal. C.S. Lewis stressed the fact that, “The Church will outlive the universe.” He continued, “We know from science that the time will come when every culture, and every nation in the world will disappear. In fact, the entire human race, and every biological form of life on planet earth will become extinct.”

This raises the existential question, where will you be when everything else has disappeared? Science says, “Not a problem, you won’t exist anymore, so it won’t matter! But they can’t prove that scientifically. How can they be so sure of what they can’t prove?”

The fact is that legions upon legions of human beings have known through intuition that life extends beyond this world.

We seldom see the hidden hand of God at work in this world, but we know by faith that God is always active in human history. We know that God has called us to be with Him forever in Heaven. We may not know exactly what life will be like in the next world, but we do know that God has a plan; namely, He wants us to share His eternal life with us.

The Catholic Catechism states that the Mystical Body of Christ includes everyone whom God claims as His own, even those outside the Church, and even those who lived before Christ was born. Our faith teaches us that God's mercy is infinite, and that all the good people of old, who desired to do God's will throughout their lifetime, are part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

His mercy endures forever. The mystery of divine mercy is rejected by the world of science. "Therein lies the maddening ambiguity of our faith as it appears to others," said, C.S. Lewis, "As private individuals, as mere biological entities, we humans may appear to be of little account, but as an organic part of the Body of Christ, we are assured that we shall live to remember the galaxies as an old tale."

Jesus Christ said, 'In my house there are many mansions...peace be with you.'

May the Lord be your strength and your joy, as you journey from this world to the next.