

July 9, 2023

Heaven: Fantasy or Fact?

by Ken Weliever

“What’s in the future for us?” Danny DeVito recently asked fellow actor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The 75 year old politician, actor, and former bodybuilder retorted, “It reminds me of Howard Stern’s question to me. ‘Tell me, governor, what happens to us when we die?’ I said, ‘Nothing. You’re six feet under. Anyone that tells you something else is a (expletive deleted) liar,’”

Schwarzenegger further said that heaven was a “fantasy.” Then added these “insights.”

“We don’t know what happens with the soul and all this spiritual stuff that I’m not an expert in, but I know that the body as we see each other now, we will never see each other again like that,” he added.

“When people talk about, ‘I will see them again in heaven,’ it sounds so good, but the reality is that we won’t see each other again after we’re gone,” he stated. “That’s the sad part. I know people feel comfortable with death, but I don’t.”

This would be funny, if it wasn’t so sad. Here’s a man who doesn’t claim to be an expert in “spiritual stuff” arrogantly offering what Zachary Mettler called a “cavalier assessment of eternity.”

As a fellow 75 year-old I can somewhat appreciate Schwarzenegger’s lack of

comfort with death. I admit I don’t like death. It leaves hurting hearts. Burdened spirits. And empty homes. Yet, death is a reality we all must face. As my Mom often said in her last few years, “We’re not put on this earth to live forever.”

But what about the future? Eternity? And heaven?

You’re not surprised to learn that a blog called ThePreachersWord believes Mr. Schwarzenegger is mistaken. Heaven is not a fantasy, but a fact. However, our assertion is not based on the slippery slope of wishful thinking but the person of Jesus Christ. He promised to prepare an eternal dwelling place for us.

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (Jn. 14:1-3)

Peter affirmed Jesus’ promise when he wrote that we have “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

Of course, the skeptic and infidel would say this is ridiculous since they think Jesus is a myth. However, the

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series
- Bulverde church of Christ,
Every Thursday June 1 -
August 17

Our meeting with Mark Roberts is scheduled for
August 13-16

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

historicity of Jesus cannot be denied. Secular historians affirm his existence. Scholar Ben Witherington wrote, "There is more historical evidence for the existence of Jesus than there is for the historical existence of Julius Caesar."

Not only did Jesus live, he died and miraculously arose from the dead. Peter witnessed it. So did the rest of the apostles. And the women who followed Jesus. Furthermore, Paul affirmed that over 500 people at one time saw the resurrected Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

When Jesus died the disciples were dispirited and depressed. They ran like scalded dogs. They met in hiding. Probably fearing for their own lives. However, his appearance from the grave turned their sadness into gladness. It fueled their faith. It fortified their hope. And provided the motivation to evangelize a lost world.

These men were not fools. They did not suffer persecution, endure hardship, and give their lives for a hoax. Paul affirmed that the gospel message is founded on the hope of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:15-20). And Peter said our hope of heaven is founded on "the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3).

C. S. Lewis was right when he wrote that "we're made for another world." As the old time preachers used to say, "Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people."

While politicians, pop stars and pundits have a media platform to propagate their nonsense, pastors, preachers, Christians and churches need to proclaim Jesus' gospel at every opportunity. Let us not be shy about declaring our faith. And affirming our hope.

Schwarzenegger became known for his line in the movie Terminator, "I'll be back." Well, Jesus promised, "I'll be

back." He's coming again to take the saved home. Home to heaven.

That, my friends, is not a fantasy. But a fact.

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[Prayer Requests](#)

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson had a biopsy for a tumor near his lungs.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. He is home from rehab. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Tony Mauck has cancer that has already spread.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Margaret Vanaman is home recovering.

Syble Hargrove is in Kingsland Hills Care Center.

Dorthy Steadman had a seizure and was hospitalized. She is staying with Hank.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s
upplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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