

The Timeless Life

by Ernest O'Neill

The sermon explores how Jesus Christ offers a transformative eternal life that transcends our earthly limitations.

Scripture: Psalm 139:14, John 10:10, John 17:5, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 2:5, Colossians 3:2

Topics: "Eternal Life", "Salvation In Christ"

Description

Ernest O'Neill preaches about eternal life, comparing it to a 'time-machine' experience that transcends the limitations of our earthly existence, made possible through Jesus Christ who exists above time and space. He emphasizes the need to focus on heavenly things rather than earthly matters, as Jesus came to offer abundant life beyond our current state. O'Neill highlights the contrast between the limited salvation offered by conventional religion and the true salvation found in Christ, restoring us to our original existence and limitless possibilities.

Transcript

Eternal Life

H.G. Wells -- and others -- dreamed of a "time-machine" that would lift us out of the present century and the limitations of our own time-space life and transfer us into a larger experience. That is what our Creator has done for us in his son Jesus Christ. Jesus himself is above time and space -- he said "restore to the the glory which I had with you "before the world was". (John 17:5) This means that He exists above time and space and the limitations of our earthly existence. In his short time on earth in the first century he explained to us that we were created to live in that same transcendent timeless state even here on earth. He put it like this -- "I have come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly...set your mind therefore on things that are above not on things that are on the earth". (John 10:10 and Collosians 3:2)

Religious Plastic

Just as we call credit cards "plastic money" so there is a religious plastic that substitutes its own limited salvation for this real salvation which God has given us in his son Jesus. So, conventional religion interprets these explanations of Jesus metaphorically as meaning that we should think about highly moral things instead of low earthy things. But the Christ (this man who came from beyond the earth) meant what he said. He indicated through his follower Paul that the present state of our lives was like death compared to the state our Creator had provided for us originally. He stated that God had allowed us to sink into this

"second-best-life" to demonstrate what life on our own would be like. But in his son Jesus Christ he had preserved the original life and had recreated our original existence in his son so that we might choose it if we wished. He put it like this: "those of us who were dead in our trespasses and sins God made alive together with Christ and raised us up with him and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus that in the coming ages he might show forth the riches of his kindness towards us in Christ Jesus". (Ephesians 2:5-7) We all have had glimpses of this existence when the Creator has allowed moments of youthful exhilaration to fill us with the limitless possibilities of the future. At those times, we sense that "everything is possible" and we are filled with an inner joy that lifts us above any feelings of inferiority or inadequacy. We seem to "forget who we are" until a friend or relative "brings us back down to earth" and we fall back into the consciousness of our own "human" limitations.

What is Normal?

These "human" limitations are not "normal human" but "sub-normal human". They are the impaired minds, unbalanced emotions and weakened wills which have deteriorated under the pressure of our attempt to live in dependence on the material world rather than God himself. This fearful, anxious state has become our "normal", and the only way we can escape from the oppression of the world is by blotting out our consciousness of it through drugs or distraction. Even these deadly substitutes to which we have resorted point to the exhilaration and excitement we were meant to have in our normal day-to-day life on earth. "Salvation" is God miraculously exchanging our present limited and limiting existence for the limitless existence he gave us originally in his son Christ.

How Can You Become Normal?

How can you yourself be changed from what you are into what you were meant to be? Not by our self-help methods of long-drawn-out struggle and repeated failure, but by believing all that we've just shared in these paragraphs--and by adjusting our thinking and our acting to the fact that we are now part of the Creator's superhuman son, Christ Jesus. He has an un-lived, unrepeatable life that he wishes us to live for him -- and that he wishes to live through us so that he can complete the creation of the universe. The moment we begin to grasp this and live accordingly, that same moment reality begins to break in upon us. The Christ of God infuses thoughts into our minds that we can then follow. We have the power now to follow them (though we can still use our free-will to reject them). As we start to follow the impressions he makes upon our minds even though they may seem foolish to our friends, the normal life of God replaces the so-called "normal" life we have been living. How does this work out in practical living? Let's now begin to share the ways it affects our human abilities. But the best way for you to know is to begin believing all this now.

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