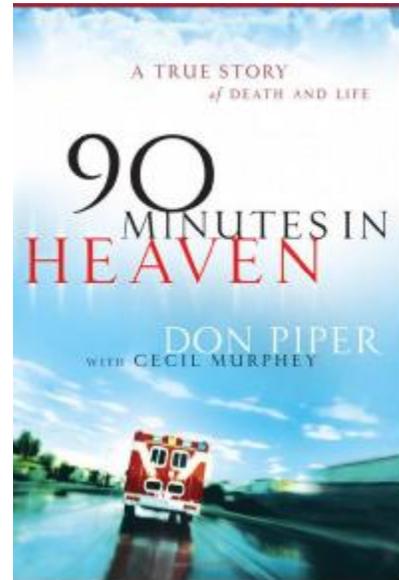


Adult Bible Study

August 31, 2008

Baptist minister Don Piper was returning from a convention on January 18, 1989. As he crossed a narrow bridge a semi-crossed the centerline and crushed the passenger side of his small car. At 11:15 a.m. the EMT's checked his pulse and declared him dead. They covered his mangled body with a tarp. Around 1:15 p.m. they checked his pulse again and found nothing. Soon after that another Baptist pastor came upon the scene and asked if he could pray for the man under the tarp. The EMT's tried to discourage him, but he was determined. He crawled into the back of the car and began praying. He then began to sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." To his amazement Don Piper began to sing along with him. Everything went crazy, and that's where Don's story begins.



1. TV Interview...

2. What did Don say he saw in heaven?

Greeted by people (Christians) that he knew on earth
The people were perfect, no blemishes, same age as at death
Pearl Gates, Golden Streets
Sound – 1000s of praise songs, hum of wings,
Saw people he didn't expect to see
He never mentioned seeing God.

3. What impact did the experience have on Don?

p. 129ff
God Answers Prayer
God still performs miracles
Wants as many people in heaven as possible
It gives a sense of urgency to tell others about Jesus

Gave the opportunity to encourage many suffering people. (Biggest part of the book)

4. What are we to think of "Near Death Experiences?"

Don acknowledges that many near death experiences are very questionable.
Should we pray for those who have died? No. Their eternal future is sealed.

5. What are basic teachings of the Bible regarding death and heaven?
 - A. Body and soul separate. Ecclesiastes 12.6-7
 - B. Judgment is immediate. Hebrews 9.27
 - C. The body on earth sleeps. Deuteronomy 31.16; Daniel 12.2; Matthew 9.24; John 11.11ff; Acts 7.60; 1 Corinthians 15.51; 1 Thessalonians 4.14-15
 - D. The soul of the believer exists in heaven in the presence of God. Luke 23.43; 2 Corinthians 5.8
 - E. On the last day the body is raised and reunited with the soul. John 5.29; Romans 6.5; 1 Corinthians 15.51-57;

5. Who in the Bible died and came back to life? What did they report?

1 Kings 17.17-23 Son of the Widow of Zarephath Raised by Elijah

2 Kings 4.32 Son of the Shunammite Woman Raised by Elisha

2 Kings 13.21 Man Who Touched Elisha's Bones

Luke 7.12 Son of the Wido of Nain Raised by Jesus

Luke 8.49-55 Daughter of Jairus Raised by Jesus

John 11.43ff Lazarus Raised by Jesus

Acts 9.36ff Dorcus/Tabitha Raised by Peter

Acts 20.9 Eutychus Raised by Paul

6. Who in the Bible had visions of heaven? What did they report?

2 Corinthians 12.1-10 Paul said he couldn't describe what he saw.

Revelation 4.1ff

Immediately sees God on the throne

Saw the twenty four elders and four living creatures

He sees the Lamb that was slain.

An innumerable multitude from all nations (7.9)

The Altar (of incense?) (8.3)

Son of Man / Man on White Horse, Robed Dipped in Blood

7. What Bible passage suggests that we will recognize family and friends when we get to heaven? 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

Note that this passage refers to people coming together to be with the Lord. It doesn't specifically say that we will be able to recognize each other. However, Peter was able to recognize Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. In the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, the rich man was able to recognize Abraham and Lazarus. Do these passages suggest that we might be able to recognize each other in heaven?