

Young Atheists

At a summer camp for young atheists, there was great energy for discussion of random thoughts as to why there isn't a God. The interview was played on *All Things Considered*, a PBS radio program. The energized discussion continued until the moderator asked: "What happens to you after you die?" The silence of the moment was louder than the noise of earlier arguments. To think that worms, dust and nothingness awaits the end of their life was incongruous to who these young atheists knew themselves to be. Instinctively they knew they had value beyond twenty, fifty or a hundred years of life on earth.

You have a future, a life beyond your breath, your pay check, and your thoughtful (or thoughtless) opinions. Your future is more than a discovery, children or a death announcement on a news program. After the last beat of your heart, the last twitch of a nerve, you will stand before the Almighty to give an account of what you did with His son Jesus. You will receive the spoken accolade "well done" or receive the terminal words, "I never knew you." It is your future. It's the future for every conceived promise given to human life.

This truth empowered by compassion and calling, compels people to make wise decisions. Jesus said: "The man who loves His life will lose it while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life." (John 12:25)

That's why Steve and Lisa Frey will take their children to Kosovo, leaving friends and family, to bring the good news of Jesus to someone needing hope. That's why Bob will give generously in tithes and offerings to propel forward the message of Jesus. That's why Mike and Becky will lead a Cleansing Streams class, helping friends escape the weight of people pain. That's why Judy will give twenty dollars to a street beggar and pray a blessing of love upon him. That's why _____(your name) will hear and respond to the words of Jesus: "Whoever serves me must follow me and where I am (working), my servant also will be (working)." (John 12:26)

Argue if you wish. Build your house, your worth, your treasures, your own image if you so desire. But never forget, we will all, atheists, agnostics and believers, give an account in just a few short years, to the God who created all things. Now, that's something to think about.

Pastor Delgatty