

The Day of Judgement, Part 2

The fact that no one has ever returned from the dead to tell us about her experiences there is disturbing. What if one’s decision(s) in this life are wrong? In this earthly existence, we can remedy everything. But what if our primary choice in our “worldly” life (Is there a creator? Should He be worshiped?) is incorrect? We shall only know the answer when we cannot go back and amend our choices. The Quran says, “(99) [For such is the state of the disbelievers] until, when death comes to one of them, he says, “My Lord, send me back [to life]” (100). I might do righteousness in that which I left behind” [Quran 23: 99-100].

The Quran also says, “(27) If you could but see when they are made to stand before the Fire and will say, “Oh, would that we could be returned [to life on earth] and not deny the signs of our Lord and be among the believers.” [Quran 6: 27]. And says, “Allāh - there is no deity except Him. He will surely assemble you for [account on] the Day of Resurrection, about which there is no doubt. And who is more truthful than Allāh in statement.” (Ans: No one.) [Quran 4: 87] And also says, “(32) And the worldly life is not, but amusement and diversion; but the home of

the Hereafter is best for those who fear Allāh, so will you not reason?” [Quran 6: 32]. We now continue our talk about the day of Judgement.

The Greater Plan: Day of Judgement

Belief in the soul (The Self, Stillwater News Press, 3/2/24, C7) and the afterlife gives a context to our current existence. Those who focus only on this immediate life miss the bigger picture. Indeed, they become heedless of their purpose in life. God reminds humanity, “The life of this world is merely an amusement and a diversion; the true life is in the Hereafter if only they knew” [Quran 29: 64]. Islam teaches that this life is simply a test to determine our place in eternal life after death. Those who understand the reality ahead of them are aware that their ultimate fate after death is based on their actions in this life. Such individuals are thankful for all the blessings God has given them and humbly worship Him while promoting goodness in all aspects of their lives. When people embrace such a God-conscious way of life, their purpose extends beyond merely enjoying worldly pleasures. Their life is one of submission to God, and they seek to positively contribute to the



Guest Column

HATIM HEGAB

world around them. This motivation is rooted in their transactions with people, animals, and the environment. They are guided by the certainty that they will one day return to their Creator and be held accountable for their deeds. Although they can live according to their whims, they limit their attachment to this brief and imperfect life, seeking an eternal paradise hereafter.

Why Believe?

Believing in the soul and the afterlife is foremost about having faith in the unseen. Just as our souls are intangible beings giving life to our physical bodies, the world we see around us functions based on an invisible system created by God, who is Ever-Watchful and All-Aware, Muslims believe that God is also, and He maintains a meticulous record of our deeds. We will be reimbursed for our earthly lives in the hereafter, where ultimate justice prevails.

Humans naturally seek justice in all aspects of their lives. When a per-

son works, they expect to receive an appropriate salary. When an individual is harmed, they seek compensation. When someone helps another, they anticipate appreciation for their effort. Even though humans strive hard to establish justice, the reality is that this world will never be perfectly just. Many criminals go unpunished while the oppressed are denied fundamental rights. Do their lives dissolve without any accountability or fair dealing?

Islam’s View of Justice in the Afterlife: A Recompense for All Deeds

God proclaims in the Quran, “Do those who commit evil deeds think that We will deal with them in the same way as those who believe and do righteous deeds, that they will be alike in their living and their dying? How badly they judge!” [Quran 45:21]. In the afterlife, the evil doers cannot escape the grip of justice, and victims of worldly suffering will be reimbursed for their pain. People who spend their lives responsibly, avoiding temptations to commit sins, will also be rewarded. As the Quran mentions, “God created the heavens and the earth for a true purpose: to reward each soul according to its deeds. They will not be

wronged” [Quran 45:22].

Islam’s View of Justice: The Greatest Injustice is to Deny God

According to Islam, one of the greatest injustices humans can commit is to deny God’s existence, add partners to Him, or worship worldly ideals or materialistic goals. Islam teaches that God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Nourisher of every being in the heavens and the earth. As His creation, it is His right that we worship and obey Him. He showers us with His blessings every day out of His love and mercy. Worshiping Him is an expression of gratitude to God, and ignoring Him or worshiping others is ungratefulness and a denial of His blessings.

Suppose our man-made judicial systems punish people for committing injustices against other people. In that case, it is even more understandable that God would punish those who deny Him His rights and commit injustices against His creation. God says in the Quran, “We shall set up scales of justice for the Day of Judgment so that not a soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least, and if there be (no more than) the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it (to account): and enough are We to take account” [Quran 21:47].

God’s Mercy

As imperfect beings, we often make mistakes and commit wrong actions. While God does not expect perfection from us, He calls on us to strive to worship Him and live righteously. Out of His Mercy, God pardons whom He wills in the hereafter. God promises us in the Quran: “And those who believe and do righteous deeds – We will surely remove from them their misdeeds and will surely reward them according to the best of what they used to do” [Quran 29: 7].

Muslims seek salvation in the hereafter by living a God-conscious and virtuous life in this world. The fear of accountability in the hereafter, along with hope in the promise of God’s ultimate justice, motivates them to orient their present lives around the comprehensive worship of God, the true purpose of human existence. In this way, they endeavor in this temporary life for eternal joy.

[To the righteous, it will be said], “O reassured soul, return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing [to Him], and enter among My [righteous] servants, and enter My Paradise.” [Quran, 89: 27-30]

To contact the author: hatim@gmx.us
For more information: icstillwater.org/islam

Hundreds mourn killings of a Haitian mission director and a young couple

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Hundreds of people packed into a sweltering church in Haiti’s capital on Tuesday to mourn Judes Montis, a mission director killed by gang members who also fatally shot an American couple that worked with him.

Wails filled the crowded church during the early morning service as tears streamed down the face of Montis’ wife.

The service also honored the lives of Davy and Natalie Lloyd, a married couple in their early 20s who were with Montis when gunmen ambushed them on Thursday night as they left a youth group activity held at a local church.

Montis, 47, leaves behind a wife, two children, ages 2 and 6, and a brother who was present the night that the killings

occurred.

“We’ll never forget you or the path you created for others!” cried out one mourner as the crowd dressed in black and white made its way from the church to the cemetery.

The service was held just days after the three were killed in a gang-controlled area in a northern part of Port-au-Prince where Montis worked as the local director of the Okla-

homa-based Missions in Haiti, a religious organization founded by David and Alicia Lloyd, Davy Lloyd’s parents.

“We are facing the most difficult time of our life,” Missions in Haiti said in a recent Facebook post. “Thank you for all your prayers and support.”

Montis’ brother, Esuaue Montis, a 43-year-old Spanish teacher with the mission, told The Associated Press that he

was nearby during the shootings. He said that he saw the gunmen arrive and he used a truck to block the gate before he started running with several orphans and employees in tow.

Montis said the mission had never been threatened before, adding that gang members in the area had only asked for small handouts on occasion.

— AP

Worship at the church of your choice this week

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children –



Psalms 103:17

Stillwater Bible

Proclaiming Christ, Training Believers

JB Bond, Senior Pastor

Sundays

Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

G.R.O.W. Groups 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Kids' Church 11:20 a.m.

Tuesdays

Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297) 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Stillwater Bible Institute 6:30 p.m.

Impact Youth 6:30 p.m.

Bible Kids 6:30 p.m.

7617 W. 6th Ave.

Stillwaterbible.org (405) 564-5794

Crosspointe

CHURCH

Sunday School - 9:30

Sunday AM Worship - 10:30

Sunday PM Family Service - 6:00

Wed PM Bible Study - 7:00

1807 N. Jardot

gocrosspointe.com

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH

701 S. DUNCAN • 405-372-5212

SUNDAY

Bible Study • 9:30am

Worship Service • 11:00am

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Begin at 6:00pm

Watch our worship service on Facebook

www.fbcstillwater.org

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

www.fumcstw.org

400 W. 7th • 372-5854

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship.....8:30am & 11:10am

Sunday School.....10:00am

Closer Walk..... 10 am Family Life Center

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

BAPTIST CHURCH

4th & Knoblock • 372-2744

Sunday School

9 am

Worship Service

8 am & 10:30 am

GRACE BAPTIST

CHURCH

Independent Baptist

Expository Preaching

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 10:30am

Thursday 7:30pm

723 E. 17th

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

524 S. Duncan • 405-372-5580

www.stillwaterfpc.org

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - in person, online

On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3

and the Stillwater FPC Facebook page

Sunnybrook

Christian Church

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377.0923

www.sunnybrookcc.org

SUNDAY SERVICE

9:45 am

11:15 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30 am

9:45 am

KIDS CHURCH 9:45 & 11:15 am

GO • GATHER • GROW

Stillwater

Church of Christ

stillwatercoc.org

Your place for

"Faith, Family and Friends"

SUNDAY

Meeting Times

Bible Study.....9:30 AM

Worship.....10:30 AM

Bible Study.....5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible study.....7:00 PM

821 N. DUCK • 372-7439

Southside Baptist

Church of Stillwater

1223 S. Perkins Rd.

Perfectly • Purposely • Placed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM + 6 PM

WEDNESDAY

YOUTH & ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30

Paul Hatcher - Pastor

Address - 1223 S. Perkins Rd.

Phone: 405-372-2411

Email: southsidesillwater@gmail.com

The Islamic

Society of Stillwater

616 N. Washington St.

Friday (Weekly) Prayers

1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

For Daily Prayer Times

www.icstillwater.org

St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Church

711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass

8:30 | 11:15 a.m.

1 p.m. (en español)

Tue & Thu Mass

12:10 p.m.

Wednesday Mass

12:10 p.m.

6 p.m. (en español)

Friday Mass

12:10 p.m.

Saturday Mass

9 a.m. | 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Confessions

Tues-Fri | 11:30-12 p.m.

Wednesday | 5 p.m.

Saturday | 9:45-11 a.m.

405-372-6886

www.sfxstillwater.org

Zion Lutheran

Church - LCMS

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

www.zionlutheranstw.org

John E. Wackler, Pastor

504 S. Knoblock • 372-3703