

The Desire to Live Forever  
John 5:19-27

A couple of years ago the S M H had on the front page an article entitled.

"One day we will live for ever but not in our lifetime"

The article opened with this line.

" Chicago, Sunday: Death may not be certain after all"

The article went on to talk about the research being done with fruit flies and how they had managed to double their lifespan

And the thought is that one day this type of development can be done with humans.

The desire to live forever.

Has been one that has been part of human society for centuries.

Its been going on for thousands or years- the pyramids and the fountain of youth.

Just yesterday I read an article in the Paper entitled

To "Tox or not to Tox" all about stars who use Botox and those who don't.

Botox is when they inject an aomount of botulinum toxin into a part of the face or body where you want to get rid of wrinkles.

The idea is to smooth out the lines to keep on looking younger longer or for most of the celebs in the paper looking more plastic and the lose of movement in the face

And then there is the craze to have our bodies frozen

Somewhere in the United states today there is a fridge with Walt Disney's name written on it.

His name isn't on it because it is his fridge but his name is on it because he is **in** that fridge.

It is called cryogenics.

Walt's hope is that some day in the future they will find the cure for the cancer that killed him. And that they will be able to thaw him out, and bring him back to life. Cryogenics is a major growth area in the USA.

It is interesting isn't it, that we live in a world that is obsessed with wanting to live longer. That is why we are told to eat less fat, lower our cholesterol, give up smoking, eat less salt and do more exercise. If you do these things you will live longer.

Or like the old joke says even if you don't it will feel like it.

BUT why the desire to live forever any way????

Why the ingrained desire to live longer and longer and live forever?

I suppose the answer is obvious really.

People don't want to die. People fear death.

We have all sorts of fears don't we.

Fear of spiders, fear of tapeworms, fear of heights, fear of flying, fear of ugliness.

Some people even have a fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of their mouths. Anyone want to guess what that is called.

Arachybutyrophbia.

But the one that gets all people is the fear of death.

People really don't know what stands on the other side of death, and they don't really want to find out.

So they try to squeeze as much out of this life and this body.

And they will do it however they can.

And we will do it however we can.

You see I think it goes beyond fearing death but goes to the heart of who we are as humans.

That is in our hearts we all know that there is an eternity.

Ecclesiastes 3 says that God has put eternity in our hearts.

We desire to live forever because God made us with that desire.

I think that is why Walt Disney had his body put in a freezer.

I think that is why they are trying to make fruit flies live longer.

I think that is why we all want the body beautiful, to live longer.

But ultimately they will not be able to make flies live forever or for that fact humans either.

Dear old Walt Disney's hopes of living forever will never come through the advances of science or medicine. He is going to stay frozen or some day they will give up and just defrost the fridge.

In the end as John 5:21 states these things are out of mans control they are in God's hands.

It is like that first visit to the dentist, you are in the waiting room with others and the receptionist calls out a name and the bloke next to you goes in behind that door.

You here noises and you have heard all the stories about going to the dentist but you haven't been yourself, so your big hope is that you see that bloke next to you come out, but before that happens the receptionist comes out and calls a lady across the room and she goes in but the other bloke hasn't come out.

Your heart is racing now and you wonder what happened to the other bloke.

What happens on the other side.

You just want someone to come out and tell you and reassure you.

What if someone did come back has come back.

There is one and there is one who came back and there is one way to live forever.

If we can remember the reading from Jack

Jesus makes the huge claim that he can give us eternal life.

Look at John 5:24

He says that it is something you can have starting right now.

Jesus says who ever believes his words, that is to put your life in his hands has eternal life.

Eternal Life begins the moment we look to Jesus, as we see what he did on the cross.

Those who were here on Friday we saw that Jesus death on the cross removes our sin, Is the greatest act of love of all time, that even though we have turned our back on God he hasn't turned his back on us. Jesus goes to the cross and takes all our sin so that we are free to be with God forever.

Jesus was God's rescuer for us, the one to pull us out of a life doomed for eternity outside the presence of God and brings us into the presence of God for all eternity.

This is not to say that you will not die physically but Jesus promises that even when we die we will still live.

(illust: Marshall Hastings 10 year was in the middle of 50 metre breaststroke and he sank to the bottom of the pool.

He was pulled out by life guards who performed CPR and used a defibrillator on him to bring him back to life.

Marshall Hastings didn't know it but he had a rare heart condition called CPVT which is a disease that you don't know you have until it stops your heart.

Marshall didn't know he had this disease and didn't know he needed rescuing but with out the rescuers he would have been dead and now he knows he has the disease he can do something about it.

We all have a deadly disease , called sin, and sometime we don't realise it but it is deadly and our rescuer is Jesus, we need to take the Hand of Jesus and he will save us.

Even more than Aussie Home Loans.

Well I suppose the big question to ask is "How can I be sure that what Jesus said is true?"

I suppose it is impossible to for someone to prove what is beyond death unless they had come back from the dead.

Unless they come back from the dentist.

If Walt ever steps out of the freezer, he'll be an instant celebrity.

An expert on death.

Kerry Packer had those famous words that "I have seen death and there is nothing there", well the first time wasn't the real thing, now he knows exactly what is there.

Kerry's first experience was only a near death experience but there is one who has been through death.

One who has gone through the door and come back.

Jesus

And this is where the message of Easter Sunday, the resurrection of Jesus is so important.

Is a wondrous truth.

Jesus is the one who promised that he could give eternal life.

And as a guarantee to that he rose from the dead.

You might say how do you know this is true?

Good question and there are a number of ways I could answer that.

Did he really die or was he just unconscious when they pulled him down of the cross.

Spear through the side and blood and water flowed.

Did his disciples take the body?

Roman guard of upto 50 soldiers guarding the tomb.

But I think

The most convincing argument for me is not an argument but the example of the disciples.

You see when Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were beside themselves.

They had given 3 years of their life to Jesus.

Given up everything to follow him.

Now this bloke they thought was the greatest thing since nets for fishing.

Was gone.

They hid, the bible tells us, they hid in their houses afraid they were the next to be knocked off.

But then three days later they are in the streets telling people what had happened that Jesus was alive, and most of the disciples we believe died as martyrs.

They were killed for the cause.

Why the sudden change of heart?

They saw the risen Jesus.

They doubted but they were convinced.

So convinced they went to their death still convinced.

Jesus beat death. He rose again.

### **THE OPTIONS:**

The article in the SMH had this headline "One day we will live forever - but not in our lifetime." But the headline that Jesus gives is different.

He says " You can live forever - starting right now".

Jesus says I am the Way.

In all this there is a choice to be made, and the choice is simply this:

You can hope for the eternal life they are looking for in the science laboratories in Chicago. Or have Botox injections every couple of months

If that is the case then you had better buy your freezer now.

Or you can believe in Jesus - the one who claimed to be able to offer you eternal life and came back from the dead to prove it.

And start to live for him.

Or you can sit in the waiting room to scared to move.

Or you can jump up with confidence and stride forward in life knowing that Jesus is no longer dead but alive.

That is why we have the empty cross, HE is not there any more he is alive and living and wants to live in you today.

The choice is yours.

Take your pick. Don't leave it till it is too late