



ReTHINK

JESUS | BELONGINGS | IDENTITY

ETERNITY | PEACE | COMMUNITY

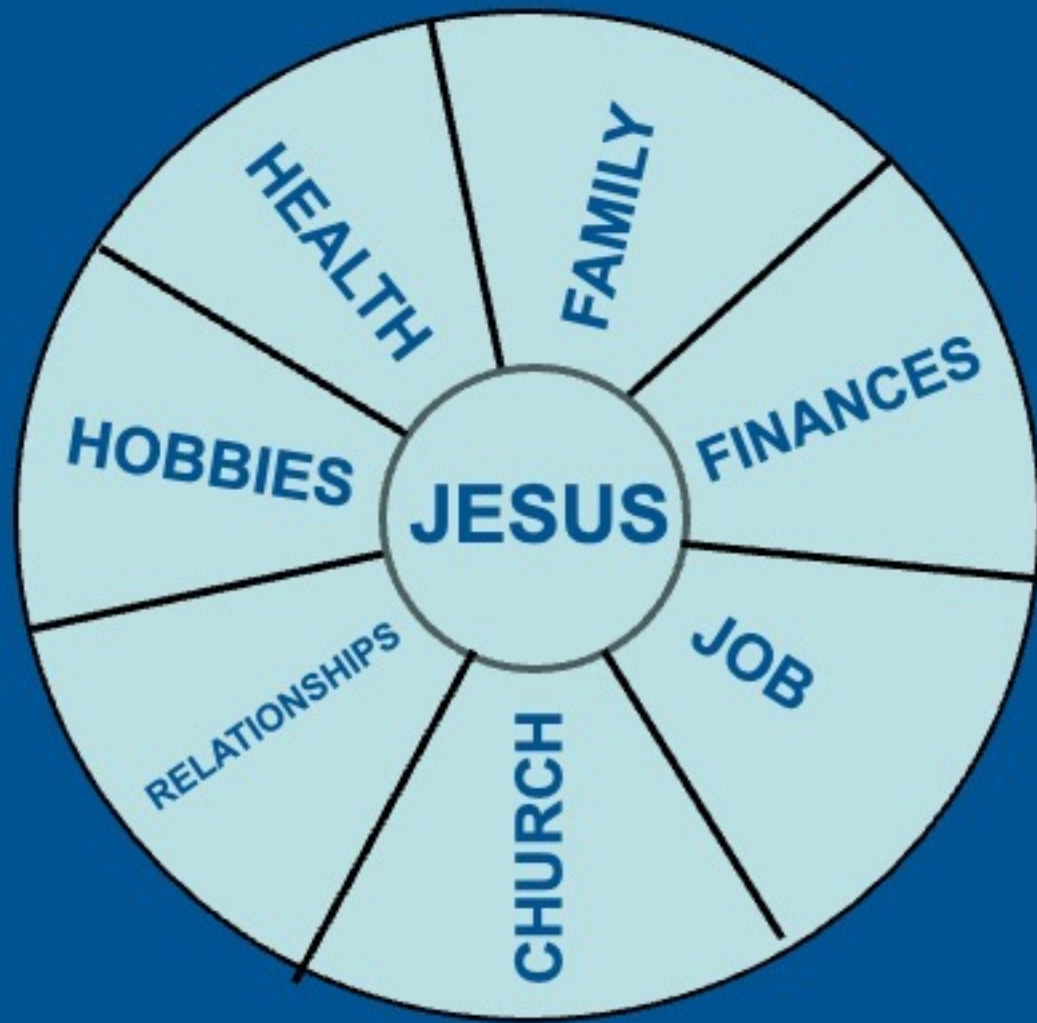
**We want to always be
rethinking if we have our
information right and
making changes as we
learn what is true or not.**



JESUS | BELONGINGS | IDENTITY

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**Re-evaluate our thinking
and behavior as we start
the new year**



When Jesus is our Lord, it means He is central and all areas of our lives are influenced by Him.

Re-Thinking

ETERNITY

The Post

Boating fun —
in Events today.

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4 Paramus teens die in Rt. 17 crash



Severed wreckage of 1978 Plymouth is cleared away by workmen (foreground and upper right) yesterday following four-car crash on Route 17 in Ridgewood in which four

Paramus teenagers died and two other persons were injured. The youth's car jumped divider and collided with car traveling southbound.

Photo by Bob Lerner

Crash renews debate over Rt. 17

By KARLA FEUER
BERGEN COUNTY —
Yesterday's tragic accident which resulted in the death of four Paramus youths and critical injury of two others stirs anew the question of

the road is relatively safe but where the accident occurred it is too narrow for the volume of traffic.

"At that part of the road there are no traffic controls

as there is a lot of speed. The road should be wider to accommodate the traffic at high speeds," said Smith.

Alexandria Police Capt. James Pallua, agreed the

road should be widened at the point near Old Paramus Reformed Church where the accident occurred, which is only two lanes.

"The merging can be complete

and it is labeled precisely well. I do think it should be widened to four lanes. That takes money."

Sgt. John Levit of the Highway Police Dept. was one of the officers at the scene of the crash. "It's a mess,

the elimination of municipal aid programs from the state budget two years ago.

David Majulski of the state Dept. of Transportation said "the inflation in road construction costs has

By JIM ARMBRUSTER
PARAMUS — Two persons injured in the four-car crash last night on Route 17 in which four borough youngsters were killed were listed in serious condition this morning in the intensive care unit at The Valley Hospital, Ridgewood.

Shattered glass and pieces of twisted metal glittered in the morning's sun in the grass on the west side of the highway in front of the Paramus Reformed Church, south of Glen Avenue, Ridgewood, where the accident occurred.

Tire tracks where one of the cars had crossed the 15-foot grass median were clearly visible.

Police said five Paramus youths were driving north on Route 17 about 3:45 p. m. when their 1978 Plymouth apparently careened off a Volkswagen, crossed the grass median and struck head-on a 1974 Ford driven by Ernest Melton, 42, of 134 Fairview Ave., Teaneck.

A hospital spokesman said Melton suffered a concussion, major lacerations and a broken leg. The surviving passenger in the Plymouth, Robert La Boudiere, 18, of 170 Reid Way suffered a fractured nose, multiple contusions and abdominal trauma, but was conscious and knew what had happened. Both were listed in serious condition.

The four dead youths were identified by police as Glen Duerkne, 18, driver of the Plymouth, and his brother Scott, 18, both of W-238 Midland Ave., Peter Chesnut, 16, of Kendrick Street, and Christopher Eagen, 16, of 300 Paramus Road.

Neither the driver of the Volkswagen nor the driver of

ambulance workers were rushing back and forth. The father of one of the dead boys broke down, the witness said. "It was really, really sad."

Police diverted southbound traffic from Route 17 onto local roads until the vehicles were removed. A North Pleasant Avenue resident said cars coming off the highway at East Track Road and Glen Avenue caused "a massive traffic jam." She said it took 20 minutes to go just a few blocks. "I couldn't get to my house."

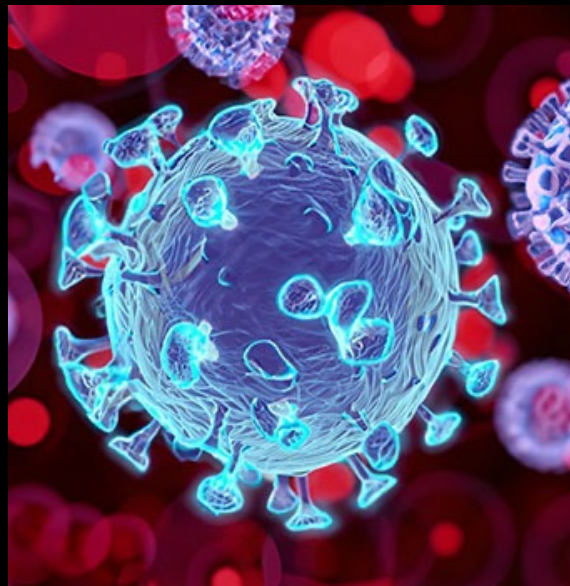
By 7:30 p. m. the cars had been cleared away, police said.

Pupils mourn victims

PARAMUS — A moment of silence observed at Paramus High School this morning mourned the victims of last night's fatal accident.

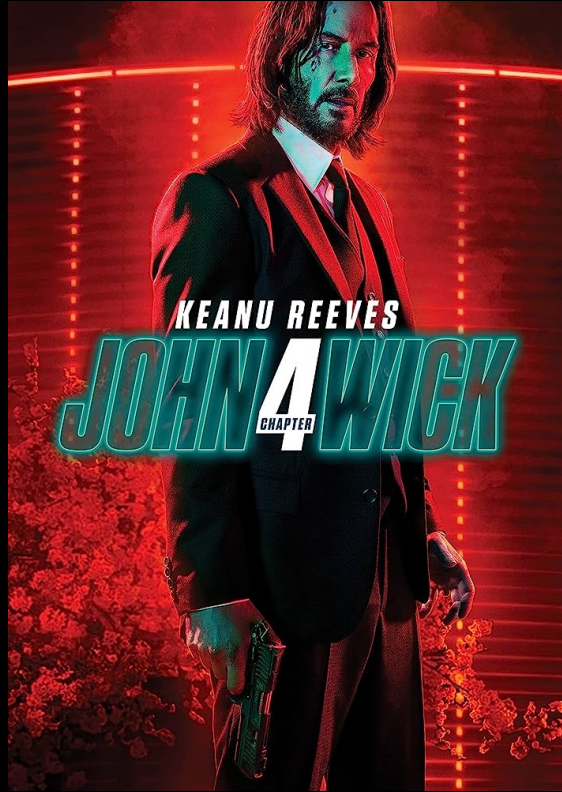
With only two days of school left, students partook of the expected rituals — yearbook signing, address exchanging and well-wishing, but gone was the laughter and excited chattering that normally marks the closing days of school. Last night's tragedy had been felt by all.

"I knew them all right — they were friends of mine," one boy said as he awaited the bell signaling classes. "Nobody really knows how it happened yet, but there's a lot of rumors starting already. They were good





We live in a very here-and-now culture which generally avoids thinking about death and eternity.



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However,

ETERNITY

is real and every single
human being will be facing
an eternity somewhere.

**The Scriptures teach that
when we die, we face
eternity with God
or apart from God.**

Daniel 12:2

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

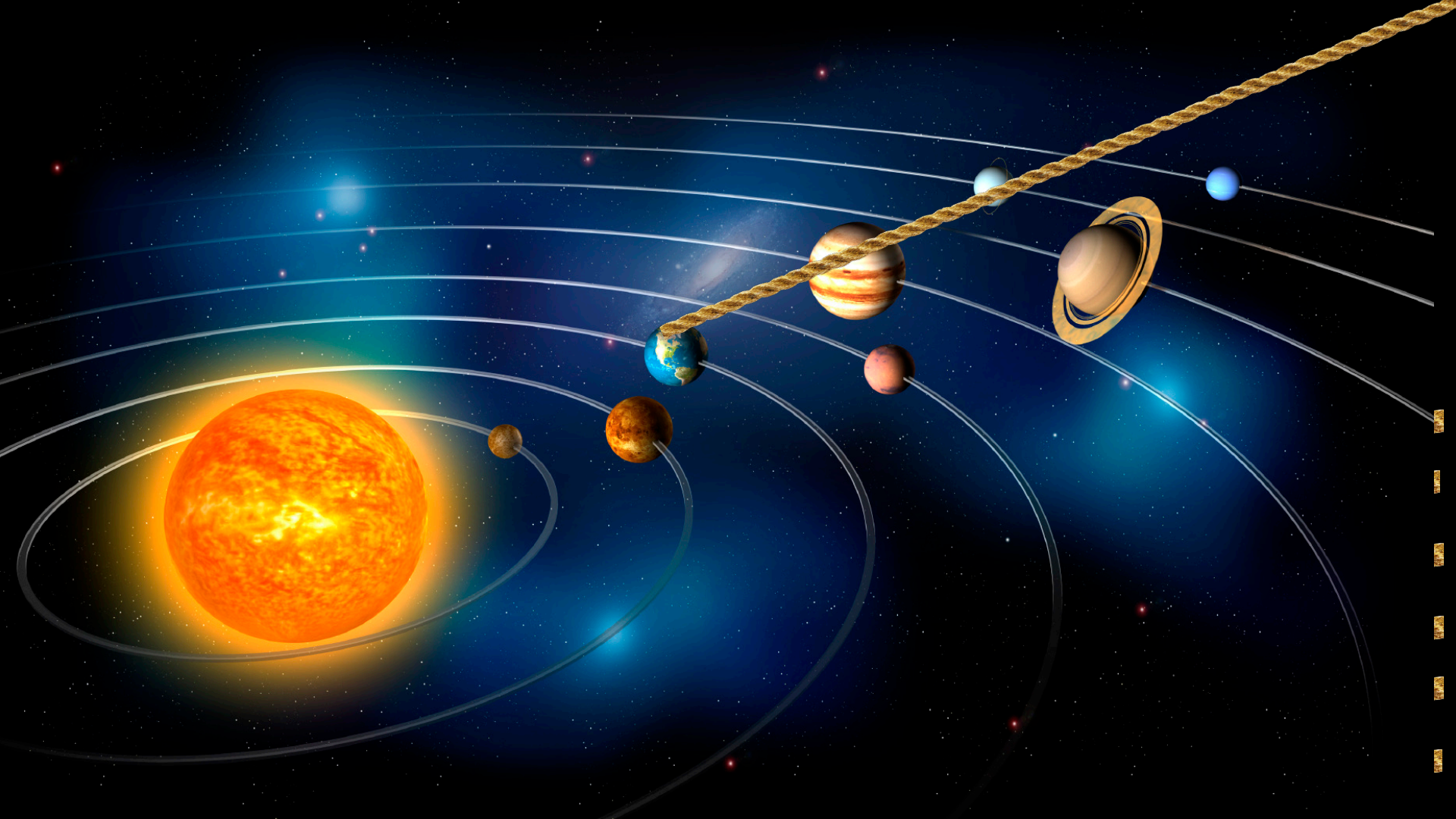
Hebrews 9:27

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

**Human beings will be
existing a lot longer in
eternity than we do in this
life.**

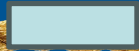








**What we do in this short
life has eternal impact on
others.**



Re-think

ETERNITY

and what it means to

invest in the eternal

**The amazing beyond words
gift of forgiveness, grace,
eternal life and living for all
eternity with God that we have
been given when we put faith
in Jesus.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace **you have been saved**, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **not by works**, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-10

¹⁰ For we are God's
handiwork, created in Christ
Jesus **to do good works**, which
God prepared in advance for us
to do.

Acts 1:7-8

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

For those who have the gift of eternal life from Jesus, if we really love others as ourselves, we would then naturally want them to also experience grace, forgiveness, love and live for eternity with God.

2 Peter 3:8-10

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord **a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.**

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord **will come like a thief.**

**With God, what may feel like a
1,000 years is just a day. We
can't comprehend eternity – but
what we can comprehend is that
God was everyone to put faith in
Him so they spend eternity with
Him.**

And He wants us to know He is patient and waiting – but warns us one day the end will happen when Jesus returns, or death whatever comes first..

Jesus told a really wonderful but very sobering parable about how those who follow Him should understand how to use their time on this earth until He returns.

The context and set-up

- In Matthew 24 and 25 Jesus is speaking about the end times and His return.

24:31-32 *“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven...and He will send His angelsand they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”*

24:32 – *“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”*

25:11-12 *“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’
“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’
“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*

**Jesus is repeatedly teaching
that there will be a time when
the beautiful invitation to trust
Him, receive grace
forgiveness and spending
eternity with Him ends.**

Jesus then tells a parable (a fictitious story to make a point) of an important person leaving for a while and entrusts caring for what he owns to 3 servants until he comes back.

Matthew 24:14-30

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave **five** bags of gold, to another **two** bags, and to another **one** bag, **each according to his ability**. Then he went on his journey.

Wealthy landowners often entrusted their property and affairs to trustworthy servants when they went away on business or for personal dealings.

The estimates of the totals of these bags come to around 2 million dollars.

There were specific amounts given to each – according to their ability.

What we see next is very important to understand.

¹⁶ The man who had **received five bags of gold** went at once and put his money to work and **gained five bags more**. So also, the one with **two bags of gold** **gained two more**. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and **hid his master's money**.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

There is no difference between the one who produced five more bags vs. two more bags. The point was they were faithful with what they were entrusted with to see it invested and multiply.

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’”

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

28 “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’.

1) We are not meant to become a Christian and then wait to go to heaven when we die. We have purpose in this life to be investing in the eternal.

Matthew 22:37- 39

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

If we really love others, the most loving thing we can be doing for them is investing in their eternity.

- **prayer**
- **time**
- **praying for opportunity and
being ready when God brings
it**

2) Everyone has different things and situations to invest that God gives us.

- **family**
- **friends**
- **workplace**
- **different financial means**

**It's not how much you
have, it's what you do
with it.**

**A daily prayer for
God to send
situations for you to
invest in their
eternity.**

**3) One day we will be held
accountable for how we
invested what God gave us.**

**Everyone at the end of their
life states how quickly it
went and can't believe it is
near the end.**

**The Scriptures teach that
when we die, we face
eternity with God or apart
from God.**

Eternity is a long time.

Investing in Eternity:

**Making a difference in the
eternal lives of people**

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also