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Dr. Swets has served as a minister of pastoral care for many years and has written six books. He has degrees in Psychology, Theology, American Culture, and Rhetoric. His newest book is **The Coming Glory: Hope Now for Life After Death**.

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Dr. Swets, what led you to write The Coming Glory?

- As minister of pastoral care, I visited hundreds of families with a loved one near death
- Questions. Wanted clarity on what the Bible says.
- Need for answers extends to almost all of us. At some point...end of life.
- Research. The more I studied what the Bible says, more excited. Scripture...astounding picture

2. To extend the reach of The Coming Glory, a Glory Project Committee was formed. How did that come about?

- Visit with Dr. Gordon Van Wylen, President Emeritus of Hope College
- Reading The Coming Glory to his wife who was bed-ridden
- Why? Gives perspective and comfort for what is ahead for believers in Christ
- Deserves wide distribution. Need for clear, easy to understand biblical information that relates directly to the needs of those who are grieving or near death.
- First leader of the Glory Project Committee—a group that raised funds to offer The Coming Glory to a pilot group of pastors who in turn have recommended or given...

3. How does the topic of death and life after fit into the current cultural climate?

- Death and taxes are constant. Taxes, control. Death, powerless.
- Some people ignore death or deny that it is personally relevant
- Covid-19, heart attacks, cancer, accidents all force us to face the fact of our mortality
- So many do think about the fragility of life and want hope; they want answers to their questions about death and eternity
- Yale interview with a medical doctor working with Covid patients

"I've had patients who have looked at me and said, 'You know, I have no idea what I believe and I'm scared out of my mind—I'm dying!'"

4. Since none of us has gone to heaven and come back to talk about it, how can we know anything about life after death?

- Guesses, theories, imaginations are useless.
- We need revelation from beyond our finite experience. We need revelation that only God can provide. We need the Word of God. That's why TCG is filled with Scripture.
- In addition to the written Word, we have the Word made flesh—Jesus—who came from heaven to forgive our sins and prepare us for the coming glory.

5. When you use the word “glory” in the title of the book, what are you referring to?

- Glory refers to the power and presence of God manifested especially in Jesus Christ and all his redeeming work.
- Although God's glory is evident all around us now—in creation and transformed lives—Scripture indicates we will see God's glory after death in all its grandeur.
- The Bible says every believer will see Jesus, the visible expression of God's glory. We will see Jesus as he is.
- Our appropriate response to this grand mystery is wonder, awe, worship, and hope.

6. The sub-title of The Coming Glory is Hope Now for Life After Death. How do the promises of Scripture provide hope now?

- When we are clear about the promises of Scripture for the believer at death, we will have hope.
- Hope is the assurance of things not seen. Hope replaces uncertainty, doubt, and fear.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. saw hope as the vitality that keeps life moving, the courage to be, and the quality that helps us go on in spite of life's problems.
- Mike was about to die and asked me to come see him. He had been a believer all his life, but now he was face to face with an enormous new reality—his impending death. We reviewed pertinent Scripture passages. He began to relax. He experienced the power of hope.

7. You write about how St Paul handled rejection, death threats, stoning, prison, physical suffering, and imminent death. What can we learn from him?

- St Paul's vision of Christ at his conversion and God's revelation to him enabled him to see the really big picture of the present and future reality.
- “I consider that the present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” R8.18
- The ultimate glory of God is so amazing and astounding that any suffering now fades
- Dr. Ziros' suffering. Horses. Long faces. We laughed. His point: Live life under ...

8. What benefit do we have in thinking about what comes after death according to the Bible?

- Peace The promises of God take away fear of death: John 14:1
- Courage Knowledge of the Bible's promises gives us courage to face our problems.
- Comfort We have great comfort now knowing what awaits the believer. 1Cor15:54-57
- Hope When we have hope, we live differently—we enjoy the wonder that the God of the universe loves us and has prepared a place for us. Psalm 42:5 Why are you cast down...

9. What does the Bible intend to teach us when it mentions the new heavens and new earth?

- In Rev 21 we learn that The earth will pass away, new earth where righteousness dwells
- The new earth will have continuity with the old—the same earth, but also a discontinuity—something fresh and beautiful. Like a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly
Not annihilation, but liberation
- No more tears, no more pain, no more death—very different. St. Paul...No eye has seen...

10. What will our resurrected bodies be like?

- Great deal of mystery about the details of our resurrected bodies
- Yet the Bible is crystal clear on a few essential facts
- Apostle Paul gives us four characteristics in 1 Cor 15
 - a. Imperishable: what is sown is p; what is raised is imperishable
 - b. Perfect: sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory
 - c. Powerful: sown in weakness; it is raised in power
 - d. Spiritual: sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

11. When is a good time to think about one's mortality?

- Now is a great time. No one knows just when his or her time of departure will come
- Being ready for that departure is the best way to live confidently and joyfully now.

12. Where can our listeners obtain a copy of The Coming Glory?

- Go to the book's website: www.thecomingglory.com
- Order The Coming Glory from Amazon or any bookstore.
- TCG is available in 3 formats: paperback, eBook, and audiobook.