

You have heard the saying, “Click it or ticket!” before you read here. It’s a slogan that means; wear your seatbelt or receive the ticket that’s gonna cost you big. I think we can read more into that though. Seatbelts save lives—bottom line. I realize that there are accidents in which the person(s) life has been lost even though they were wearing their seatbelt. However, I can attest to the fact that as an embalmer I saw more clientele that were not wearing their seatbelts than were. The seatbelt is a proven lifesaver and reduces the risk of major injury during most vehicle accidents.

“Exact seat belt statistics vary based on the type of vehicle, the type of seat belt, the position of impact, and whether the driver is a front or backseat passenger. A National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) survey, conducted between 1986 and 1999, showed that seat belts prevent death and injury most in rollovers and rear impact crashes. However, even in nearside and side impact collisions, seat belts alone were found to reduce the incidence of fatalities. According to a 2005 NHTSA survey, proper seat belt use prevents over 15,000 vehicular deaths a year. If everyone wore a seat belt, almost 6,000 additional lives could be saved. The amount of serious injuries that proper seat belt use prevents is even higher. In passenger cars, seat belts worn by front seat passengers reduce vehicular fatalities by 45 percent. That number is even higher in light trucks, where proper seat belt use reduces death incidence by 60 percent. When you break those numbers down by the type of accident, the results are even more dramatic. For rollovers (an especially high risk for light trucks), seat belts reduce death by over 80 percent in trucks, and nearly 75 percent in cars. Not all seat belt types offer the same level of protection. The 2-point belt reduces death by 32 percent, but the 3-point belt (over the shoulder and around the waist) reduces death by 48 percent. These statistics also highlight the importance of wearing your seat belt properly. Kids may not like to wear the shoulder strap, but without the shoulder strap, a 3-point belt effectively works as a 2-point belt. Therefore, the protection offered by the seat belt is compromised.” (Information taken from NHTSA website).

I recently watched a commercial about the importance of seatbelts. In the commercial it shows a father pretending to drive while sitting in his living room. As he drives his wife and little girl sit on the couch and smile in happiness and the husband smiles back to them. Suddenly the husband's smile turns to a look of fear as he turns his hands as if about to wreck. His wife and child jump off the couch. The next scene is that of his wife's arms wrapping around his chest as a seat belt would if you were wearing it and his daughter's arms wrap around his waist as the lap portion of a seatbelt would. When the “crash” happens and the man kicks over a box of glitter it's his “seatbelt of love” that protects him and keeps him safe. It is a very touching commercial and certainly makes one see the importance of wearing our seatbelts. But reader, that's not the only thing that caught my attention. It was the slogan that ran after it. It read—EMBRACE LIFE! So to embrace life, I need to take precautions and follow the rules of wearing my seatbelt. Right?

In our spiritual life we must embrace eternal life. We must allow Christ to work in our lives and guide us in this life to the life eternal. There are times in life when we do not want the protection offered by God through Jesus and we suffer the consequences. Would you like to know what the statistics are if we fail to buckle up with Jesus? There is a 100% chance of eternal death without Jesus in your life. There is 100% chance that part-time Christianity will result in still being spiritually dead. There is a 100% chance of never seeing God, never experiencing heaven if we fail to follow the commandment of God (John 14:15).

Why would we choose to NOT embrace Jesus in our spiritual life? The answer is found in the same reasons many refuse to wear their seatbelts. The message and the proof is right in their in front of our faces, yet even though the answers are found easily—people make the choice just to take their chances. What about you reader? Will you “just take your chances” with your spiritual life? I pray not. Allow Jesus to protect your very soul as you walk daily with Him.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes