

AND IN HELL

Text: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said in John 14:3, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Jesus said in John 6:47, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John 3:36 declares, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is to be prepared for Heaven. To miss Heaven and be doomed to Hell will happen if one does not prepare. The Bible is clear, "...the wrath of God abideth..." on you. The word "abideth" is translated from the word *meno* which means to continue or stay in a given place. Ephesians 2:3c reveals that before conversion we "...were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." And that's where we abide, if we do not receive Christ as our personal Savior.

There is another prepared place. Matthew 25:41: "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." This is the prepared place for the devil, the fallen angels and the unbeliever. What a contrast from Matthew 25:34: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." The only way to be blessed of God the Father is to accept Christ who took our place on the cross and received our wrath in His substitutionary death. I Peter 3:18: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God."

In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus tells us a true story. Unlike parables, real people are mentioned, giving us the name of one of the characters, Lazarus. Lazarus was a poor man who had little or nothing in this world. The rich man seemingly had everything-everything that is, except Jesus. They both went into eternity and our Lord reveals their existence beyond this life. Let's get into the story:

I. THE REALITY OF DEATH

Luke 16:22a: "And it came to pass, that the beggar died...." Luke 16:22c: "...the rich man also died, and was buried."

No matter what your station of life, there is an appointment that has been made as shown in Hebrews 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2a: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die...."

II. THE FACT OF ETERNITY

Luke 16:22a: "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom...." Lazarus immediately went to paradise. Here's the promise of what the believer has in store. Revelation 21:4: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Luke 16:22b says, "...the rich man also died, and was buried." What a contrast:

Matthew 25:46: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

III. THE FUTURE OF THE UNBELIEVER

Luke 16:23: "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...." The rich man went immediately from death to Hell. What awaits the unbeliever?

A. Fiery judgment

Luke 16:24: "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

Matthew 13:42a: "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire..." Matthew 13:50a: "And shall cast them into the furnace of fire...."

Mark 9:44, 46, 48; Revelation 20:14, 15; Revelation 21:8.

B. Darkness

II Peter 2:4, 17; Jude verses 6, 13; Matthew 22:13; Matthew 25:30.

C. Sounds

Matthew 22:13; Matthew 25:30.

D. Memories

Luke 16:25: "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."

Revelation 22:11

E. Loss of Identity

Ecclesiastes 8:10: "And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity." And in the story the rich man is not given a name. For the future of the unbeliever is that he or she shall be forgotten.

What a contrast for the believer. Matthew 13:43: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Daniel 12:3: "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

F. No Escape

Luke 16:26: "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

Revelation 14:10,11

IV. A WINDOW OF TIME

Ecclesiastes 9:11; Hebrews 9:27; Proverbs 27:1; James 4:14; II Corinthians 6:2; Isaiah 1:18. No one knows how much time they have.

V. THE ONE AND ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE HELL AND GAIN HEAVEN

Luke 16:27-31. John 14:6; Acts 4:12

Luke 16:31: "And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." John 5:39: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Luke 24:25-27: "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Conclusion:

Proverbs 1:20-33.