

10/27/24

## **Sermon – Heaven and Hell – Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man**

**Scripture – Luke 16:19-31, Rev 20:11-15**

**Main Message – When you die, regardless of your status with Christ, you will be able to witness God's glory.**

If you put a bunch of **Christians** in a room and ask them, “what happens when you die?” you will get a ton of answers. The answers you hear will mostly be spoken from “traditional” folklore and not directly from Biblical truth. You would think that the one thing that Christians would get right would be this one topic.

So, this is considered a parable by some, but for me it is an example to help us on our way to understand what actually happens when we die. This is only a part of the whole story, but it is an important story for those who pass today.

### **Read Luke 16:19-31**

Who is the rich man? Well this is what Jesus said. **Read Mathew 19:24.** So this is anyone who puts monetary gain over the kingdom of Heaven.

Who is Lazarus? Since this book was written in Greek, this name was transliterated from the Hebrew name, Eleazar, who was Aaron's good son that led the Israelites to the truth as the high priest.

What is this Gap all about? Well, this is real. It is an impassable barrier where those in torment and those in blessing are unable to cross.

Even if Lazarus came back from the dead to witness to others, they wouldn't listen. After all Jesus rose from the dead and people still aren't listening.

So, this doesn't seem so hard right? Well, I can melt your brains with one question. How long will this rich person be in Hades/Hell? Tradition tells you “forever.” The Bible doesn't say that.

Let me read to you from Revelation chapter 20, The Great White Throne Judgement.

Read Rev 20:11-15

Turns out, you don't want to go to Hell. During this period of grace you definitely want to be on the right side of the Good Shepherd. You really, really don't want to end up in The Lake of Fire. That is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Death. Look at what gets thrown into the lake of fire? Death and hell and all those who weren't found in the book of life. This judgement does not pertain to those who call Jesus Lord and Savior. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Death is the death of the soul of which there is no redemption forever. This judgement as you see is based on works and not upon grace.

Want more proof?

Read Rev 2:11

Read Rev 20:6

Read all of Revelation 20 if you want to get to the whole message. Interestingly, this is the same Bible that has been around for a long time. This knowledge is readily available. Often when I mention this people brains literally rebel against this truth. The traditional understanding is so powerful that people are unable to learn the truth. They can't even read it and have it make sense because it violates what they believed to be true.

This is the power of deception folks. It is powerful beyond all comprehension. Now you can understand perhaps a bit better how people that are deceived are so incapable of wanting/perceiving/grasping to know the truth. It causes too much pain for them to let go over their own manufactured falsehood.

By the way, I'm done with parables. Sad or Glad...?