

Luke 16:19-23 <sup>19</sup> *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: <sup>20</sup> And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, <sup>21</sup> And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup> And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

Luke 16:24-26 <sup>24</sup> *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. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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.*

Luke 16:27-31 <sup>27</sup> *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: <sup>28</sup> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. <sup>29</sup> Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. <sup>30</sup> And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. <sup>31</sup> And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

## I. Introduction

### A. Some indisputable facts

1. Death is the final separation from the living
2. Death has been center place in Covid year of 2020
3. There is a place of everlasting torment
4. No one can deny man's condition of sin

*Jeremiah 8:20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*

B. But God has another plan for all people

1. Death is result of sin, but God offers His free gift of a compassionate Savior

*Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

2. God shows His love while all people are sinners

*Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

3. People have choice to accept or reject God's Savior

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

C. Heaven & hell are real places

1. Every person after death will end up in either heaven or hell
2. God will judge all sin

- a. God punished Israel in time past for their sins

*Hosea 9:17 My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.*

- b. God will punish sinners with their second death

*Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

3. Man's appointment with death

*Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

4. Where will you be when you die on your judgement day?

*John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

D. Three-part analysis of life, death, & eternity

II. Contrast of Experience (verses 19-21)

A. Life experiences

1. No two people have same life experiences

2. Even children born into same family have different memories of same even

B. Displayed prosperity

1. Wealthy rich man
2. All his needs were taken care of
3. He had a lavish life style (“rolling in money”)

C. Devastating poverty

1. Man who begged for anything
2. He had no job or income
3. He was always hungry
4. He had very poor health & covered with open sores

III. Certainty of Eternity (verse 22)

A. Every person will die on earth

1. Everything has an end
2. God does not favor one person greater than another

*Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:*

3. All life on earth is temporary

*2 Samuel 14:14 For we must needs die, and [are] as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect [any] person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.*

4. No person can avoid their appointment with death

*Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.*

5. Certainty of death

*Psalms 89:48 What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.*

6. No person can take their earthly treasures with them into the afterlife

*Psalms 49:10 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.*

B. Subtleness of time

1. As an adult, time passes by faster than anyone wishes

2. In God's view, human life appears as short vapor of steam

*James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

3. Average life span for person is 70 years (three score & ten)

*Psalm 90:10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength [they be] fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

#### C. Suddenness of termination

1. This is the season of pandemic – of sudden Covid deaths

2. Job laments (very sad) that he feels he will die quickly (“I am not”)

*Job 7:1, 8<sup>1</sup> Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling? ... 8 The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more: thine eyes [are] upon me, and I am not.*

3. Job continues with his lament of death (“I shall not be”)

*Job 7:21 And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be.*

#### D. Significance of today

1. Procrastination is significant word in Devil's dictionary

- a. Roman governor Felix is example of hearing God's Word

*Acts 24:24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.*

- b. But Felix responded with “a more convenient season”

*Act 24: 25 25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.*

- c. But Bible does not record Felix responding again with a more convenient time

2. But God's significant word in his dictionary is “today”

- a. God writes in book of Hebrews of God's importance of today

- i. Quote from Psalm 95:7-8

- ii. God pleads with people to listen to his voice  
*Hebrews 3:7-8* <sup>7</sup> *Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,* <sup>8</sup> *Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*
- iii. God instructs Christian to encourage one another “today”  
*Hebrews 3:13* *But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*
- iv. And God says the same again – “today”  
*Hebrews 4:7* *Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

- 3. God gives a reason to meet Him – God forgives sin(s)  
*Isaiah 1:18* *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*
- 4. God is more immediate – “now” this very moment  
2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)
- 5. Earthly life is preparation to meet God
- 6. There is only Now today & there is no Tomorrow in eternity

#### IV. Calamity of Eviction (verses 23-31)

##### A. Place of perpetual suffering

##### 1. External torment

- a. How long is eternity? forever
- b. No clock, or break time, or day off in hell
- c. Rich man was in torment of burning up
- d. Jesus spoke of reality of flames of eternal furnace of ire

*Matthew 13:40-42* <sup>40</sup> *As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.* <sup>41</sup> *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;* <sup>42</sup> *And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

## 2. Emotional torment

- a. Abraham reminded rich man to remember
  - i. His piece “heaven” on earth - lifestyle of comfort
  - ii. Lazarus’ piece of “hell” on earth – life of poverty
- b. Rich man had additional emotions of worry about his 5 brothers
  - i. Abraham reminds rich man that his 5 brothers have Law of Moses
  - ii. Abraham again reminds rich man
    - a) If his brothers do not believe Law of Moses, then
    - b) Then his brother will not believe someone coming back from the dead
  - iii. Jesus says that His words will judge a person on the last day

*John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

## B. Place of permanent separation

### 1. Separation between living & dead

- a. Physical earthly death is first death
  - i. Rich man wanted Lazarus to bring just one drop of water across to him
  - ii. Great space (“gulf”) between those in hell & heaven
  - iii. No one can cross over between heaven or hell
- b. Hell has no exit door
- c. Curse of sin brings final second death
  - i. Curse of sin began in Garden of Eden - death

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
  - ii. Second death is Lake of Fire

*Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

### 2. Identity deletion

- a. Bible does not give name of rich man
- b. Rich man’s name blotted out (removed) & forgotten

c. But Lazarus is recorded & always remembered

d. Future deletions

i. All dead judged by things written in many books

*Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

ii. Possible for person to be blotted out (removed) from Book of the Living in Old Testament

*Psalms 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.*

iii. Final Judgement Day when sinners not found in Book of Life

*Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

iv. Jesus will say to some who call themselves Christian, "I never knew you."

*Matthew 7:21-23<sup>21</sup> Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?<sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

3. Infinite disassociation

a. God will give final separation to those who do not want Him

b. Reject God's Son? That person already condemned

*John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

c. Lake of Fire called outer darkness with great pain & suffering

*Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

- d. Jesus calls Lake of Fire everlasting fire

*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:*

- e. Cursed people banished to Lake of Fire have no rest forever

*Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

- f. Like minded souls share their eternity with like-minded demons, "What have we to do with You?"

*Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?*

- 4. Lake of Fire is God's judgement for sinner & final separation from God
  - a. Alone in deep outer darkness of fire & without light
  - b. Alone locked inside physical eternal body with torment forever
  - c. Alone in extreme pain with weeping & gnashing their teeth together

#### V. Conclusion

- A. No guarantees of tomorrow on earth today
- B. Church given work to declare the gospel
- C. Who will go?

*Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

- D. Go prepared with gospel of peace

*Ephesian 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*