

e t e r n i t y

PARADISE & HADES

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor

January 12, 2014

PRINCIPLE #1: The only way we can really know what happens after physical death is if God reveals this information to us.

PRINCIPLE #2: Every single human being who has ever lived will be judged by God. (Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:11-13)

PRINCIPLE #3: All your preparation for eternity must be done in this lifetime. (John 5:28-29)

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN I DIE? (INTERMEDIATE STATE - LUKE 16:19-31)

- Remember...
 - ▶ Poverty is not our ticket into Paradise
 - ▶ This story is much more than a Parable
 - ▶ Jesus is giving us very clear information about life after death
- Context...
 - ▶ Luke 15 – Exposes the wrong attitude about people
 - ▶ Luke 16 – Exposes the wrong attitude about money/wealth (Luke 16:14-15)
- Contrast... between “Dives” and Lazarus

LAZARUS

IN THIS LIFE...

Rich... very rich!
Well known among contemporaries
No name before God
Covered with purple & fine linen
Lived in continuous pleasure
Enjoyed exquisite foods
Endless “friends” and servants
Life of luxury
Exaggerated funeral

Poor... a handicapped beggar
Unknown among contemporaries
Known (and named) by God
Covered in sores / skin ulcers
Lived in continuous hunger
Desired to eat floor scraps
Dogs that licked his wounds
Life of misery
Thrown in an open ditch

AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH...

Abandoned to his destiny	Accompanied by angels
Well known among contemporaries	At Abraham's side
In torment / agony	Comforted / consoled
Desperate prayers were too late	Rest (and food!)

☒ Objection #1: Isn't God going to eventually save everyone? Universalism

- 1 After physical death, the body is buried & decomposes soon thereafter
 - Physical Death = “The First Death”
- 2 Immediately following physical death, there is a conscious existence
 - The soul is separated from the body

☒ Objection #2: Don't people just fall asleep during this time? Soul Sleep

- 3 The souls of all people who die physically go to a place called Sheol
 - 2 Samuel 12:22-23; Psalm 139:7-8; Revelation 6:8, 20:13

4 Sheol is divided into 2 parts

▶ Abraham's side = Paradise (Luke 16:22; 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8)

▶ Hades = Gehenna (Matthew 16:18; Luke 16:23-24; Rev. 6:8)

☒ Objection #3: Doesn't God just judge & destroy the unrighteous immediately after death?

Annihilation (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10)

- 5 There is a great, impassable abyss that separates Paradise from Hades (v.26)
- 6 Those living in the torments of Hades have 2 prayer requests that will go unanswered
 - ▶ Help me in my suffering (v.24)
 - ▶ Send an evangelist to my family to warn them (vs.27-31)
- 7 After a 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth, the final resurrection will occur
 - ▶ All souls will be reunited with their bodies
 - ▶ All people will appear before God's throne of final judgment (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:31-34; John 5:28-29; 11:23-26; Revelation 20:11-15)

- I will start a Bible Reading Plan for 2014.
- I will memorize Ecclesiastes 3:11b.
- I will review my sermon notes this week.
- I'm becoming a follower of Jesus today.



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Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on winter break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the break.

Lesson Aim: *To grow in our understanding of what the Intermediate State is like and living with an eternal perspective today.*

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

1. Look over the notes from Sunday's message. What insights stood out to you about what happens to us after we die?
2. **READ Luke 16:19-31.** How do the lives of the rich man and Lazarus compare on earth? After death?
3. In Sunday's message, Pastor Scott stated that "poverty is not our ticket into Paradise." Conversely, being wealthy does not disqualify us from Paradise or Heaven. In light of this, why do you think Lazarus was qualified for heaven while the rich man was kept out?

4. Since lack of knowledge is not the brothers' problem, what is?

5. In light of what this passage teaches us about the afterlife, list some of the things we should do with our lives here on earth.

6. What is one change you can personally implement into your life this week or month?

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our friendly, message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.