

# The Correspondent



**SUNDAY**

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

**WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

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*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Vol. 49 No. 28

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

July 11, 2021

## Where Do We Go When We Die? (Part Two)

-Renn Ferguson

Last week we began examining the question of where do we go when we die. As we noted there are a few different opinions on the matter. The first one, which we looked at last week, proposes that we go straight to heaven or hell when we die. We noticed a few passages that are often used in support of this claim. Upon studying those passages we saw that they do not necessarily teach anything about where our soul goes after death. Today we will be looking at the other predominate view on this subject. This is the view that when we die our soul goes to a place of waiting. If we lived a righteous life we go to paradise. If we lived a wicked life we go to torment. There is one passage that I believe clearly shows that this is the case. That passage is in Luke 16:19-31. I encourage you to read and study this passage in its entirety but for the sake of space we will only be able to look at a couple key points.

This is the account of the rich man and Lazarus. I say account because many claim that this is a parable. However, this does not have any of the earmarks of a parable. At the opening of it Jesus does not use comparison words such as like or as, which He usually did at the beginning of parables. He also uses specific names which He never did in any parable He taught. So, I believe that this is a literal account that gives us a glimpse into the afterlife.

We see that there are two main characters. They both died but had very different destinations. For the sake of space I want us to notice two primary words or phrases in this passage. Notice that it is said Lazarus went to a place called "Abraham's side" v. 22 (ESV) or "Abraham's bosom" (NKJV). This phrase was commonly used by the Jews to refer to paradise. Not talking of the eternal abode but the temporal place of dwelling previously mentioned. The rich man however, was in "torment" v. 23 (ESV). The word that is used for torment is "basanos" which is not the word used to mean the eternal place of punishment. That word is "geenna" or "Gehenna". Notice how Jesus carefully chose His words. Both terms He used would have been understood by His audience to mean a temporary place of dwelling. To me, this shows that when we die we will either go to paradise, or torment to await the judgment day.

There is so much more that could be said on this topic and many other verses to be studied (i.e. John 5:28-29, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 John 3:2, 2 Timothy 4:8 etc.). Yet, before we close I would like to reiterate what I mentioned last week. Though there may be different opinions on this topic we should not take it a matter of contention or fellowship. If one believes that we will go straight to heaven or hell, while I may not agree, I do not believe that person is in danger of losing their salvation. Also, while I do believe that we will go to a place of waiting I am also a human being capable of error. However, based on my study of scripture I feel that this stance is most biblically accurate and has the most supporting evidence. In the end, let us all strive to live faithfully to God so that we may be able to have a home with Him for all eternity. After all, that is the ultimate goal! (John 14:1-3).