

# Where Do We Go When We Die?

Text: Luke 16:19-31

## Introduction:

1. Job asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14).
  - a. He answered: "*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God*" (Job 19:25-26).
  - b. David answered: "I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:6).
  - c. Solomon answered: "...Man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets" (Ecclesiastes 12:5).
  - d. Paul answered: "...Having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Philippians 1:23).
  - e. Jesus answered: "...Where I am, there ye may be also. ...Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:3, 19).
2. The assurance of life after death is a clear teaching of Scripture.
3. Yet, many wonder what happens at death and where do we go when we die.
4. Thankfully, the Bible gives the answers...

## I. Foundational Facts

- A. **Man** is a created being with a dual nature (2 Corinthians 4:16).
  1. Physical – the outer man is the physical, fleshly body.
  2. Spiritual – the inner man is the spirit or soul.
  3. "*There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body*" (1 Corinthians 15:44).
    - a. The physical body is formed of physical materials – the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7; 3:19; 18:27).
    - b. The spirit is formed by God (Zechariah 12:1; Hebrews 12:9).
- B. **Death** is a separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26; Genesis 35:18).
- C. At death the body returns to dust, but the spirit returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7).
- D. The spirit of man continues to live after being separated from the physical body (Matthew 17:3; 22:32).

## II. Timeless Truths

- A. When one dies, he does not go directly to Heaven or Hell (Luke 23:43; John 20:17).
  1. Jesus told the dying thief that he would be with Him in paradise.
  2. However, after His resurrection, Jesus had not ascended to the Father.
- B. At death, the spirit enters into Hades (Acts 2:27; cf. Psalm 16:10; Revelation 6:8).
  1. The Greek word *Hades* (αδης) is usually translated as "hell" in the KJV.
  2. However, it does not refer to the lake of fire known as Hell.
  3. It refers to the place of departed souls, the realm of the dead, or the grave.
- C. Hades is divided into two realms – paradise and torment (Luke 16:19-31).
  1. The righteous who die enter into paradise (Luke 23:43).
  2. The unrighteous who die enter into *Tartarus* (ταρταρω) – a place of torment (2 Peter 2:4, 9-10).

3. Between these two realms a great gulf is fixed, preventing travel from one to the other (Luke 16:26).
- D. Hades is not the final, eternal destination of the spirit; rather, it is a realm in which the spirit waits until the Day of Judgment (Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10).
  1. Those in Hades do not know what is happening on Earth (Ecclesiastes 9:5).
  2. However, they do remember their time on Earth (Luke 16:28, 30).
- E. There will be a resurrection of the dead, so the souls in Hades can be joined to new bodies prepared by God (1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4; John 5:28-29).
- F. The Day of Judgment is a time of pronouncing sentence upon the lost and rewarding the saved (cf. Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46; Revelation 20:12-13).
  1. The wicked are cast into Hell (*Gehenna*) – the eternal punishment of fire (Revelation 20:14-15; Matthew 10:28; Mark 9:43-48).
  2. The righteous are taken to eternal life in Heaven (John 14:1-3; 1 Peter 1:4; cf. Revelation 21).

**Conclusion:**

1. You and I will exist somewhere forever – either Heaven or Hell.
2. Where we go depends upon how we live now.