

The Reality of Eternity

By Bart Warren in Weekly Encouragement

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. (Luke 16:22-23)

Among the many lessons we learn from the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the reality of eternity is surely near the top of the list. Heaven is real – there is a place of rejoicing to pursue! Hell is also real – there is a place of torment to avoid.

The rich man died and immediately found himself in anguish. The beggar died and straightaway found himself in a place of rest and peace. The point is impressed upon us: all of us will be somewhere forever.

The Lord not only has prepared a place of joy where we might be together eternally (John 14:2-3), He has also prepared a place of righteous punishment for those who have not obeyed the Gospel (Matthew 25:41). "Eternal punishment" is just as real as "eternal life" (Matthew 25:46).

Whereas most long to go to Heaven, significantly fewer imagine that they are in danger of facing the fires of Hell. Through the years, some believers have been embarrassed to tell the world about Hell while some non-believers have been angered that it may be a reality. Thus, it has become increasingly common for two false doctrines to be pushed: (1) Stop believing that Hell is a real place. (2) Believe Hell is a real place, but also believe that almost nobody goes there.

Do we believe Jesus spoke the truth? He said Hell was real and many will find their way there (Matthew 7:13; Mark 9:47-48). Do we believe that sin really is terrible? Scripture indicates that our sin deserves wrath and death (Romans 2:5; 6:23). Do we believe that the death of Jesus on the cross was loving, wonderful, and necessary? He gave His life for ours (Matthew 20:28).

Jesus loves us so He tells us the truth about Heaven and Hell. He died on the cross so that we could enjoy Heaven and never have to experience Hell.

Contemplate what Scripture says about the beauty of Heaven (Revelation 21-22).

Give thanks that our Lord Jesus died so that we could live each day with assurance about our eternal destiny (Heb. 6:11; 10:22).

- South Green Street Church of Christ, Glasgow, KY -

Our soul is the only thing we have been given which we can keep for eternity.

News Notes

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Beginning tomorrow 12:30-12:35 p.m., Monday-Friday on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

LABOR DAY COOKOUT & PICNIC: Tomorrow, 1:00 p.m. at Thompson Park, Pavilion 1, East Liverpool. Take a covered dish or dessert. Meat & beverages provided. Sponsored by the Chester & East Liverpool congregations.

NEW ADDRESS: Tyler Miskimen, 294 Jennings Avenue, Salem, OH 44460. Phone: 724-495-9457.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All ladies invited to participate.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Sept. 6th, 8:00 a.m. at Coplin's in Newell.

COVERED DISH: Next Sunday, Sept. 7th about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. at the Church Building.

LADIES DAY: Saturday, Sept 27th, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Southern Hills Church of Christ. Topic: "Am I An Example?" Speakers: Bobbie Goodnight & Alycia Taylor.

PANTRY: Spam.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: David Stefl, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). **Serra Manor, Weirton:** Jean Haught (Skip's mother). **Fox, Chester:** Marsha Nurmi, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

St. Clair Ave., East Liverpool Sept. 7-10 Bill Watkins
Bridgeport, WV Sept. 21-24 Rick Tincher
CHESTER Oct. 5- 9 Jimmy Clark

Five FIRSTS

1. Give God ...
the **FIRST HOUR** of the day.
2. Give God ...
the **FIRST DAY** of the week.
3. Give God ...
the **FIRST PORTION** of your pay.
4. Give God ...
the **FIRST CONSIDERATION**
in every decision.
5. Give God ...
the **FIRST PLACE** in your heart.

