**Luke 16:19-31 March 14, 2021**

**What will happen to me when I die?**

Rich Man

* His pride caused him to place his hope in his **wealth**
* He lived a life that was **self-centered**, not
God centered
* Upon death, he was immediately in Hades / torment
	+ This is the destiny of all those who die apart from a belief and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord
	+ It is immediate after death – there is no waiting room or other holding place

Lazarus

* Upon death, he was immediately in heaven
(“Abraham’s bosom”)
* There he enjoyed paradise with those who have died ahead of time
	+ There was no waiting for his reward: it was immediate

Hades

* It is a place of **torment**
* It is a place of fire and unquenchable thirst
* It is only temporary
	+ - Revelation 20:13–14
		13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Heaven

* It is the place of **immediate reward**
* It is the place where God lives
* It is the place of all the believers of all ages at death
	+ 2 Corinthians 5:7–8
	7 For we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

1) False belief: **soul sleep -** At death, the spirit goes unconscious

* Where did this belief come from?

 1 Thessalonians 4:13
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are **asleep**, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

* As soon as the rich man died, he was in Hades
	+ His soul did not go to “sleep”
* As soon as Lazarus died, he was in paradise (heaven)
	+ His soul did not go to “sleep”
* Both men entered the “intermediate state”
	+ Hades will be replaced with the Lake of Fire
	+ Heaven will be replaced with the New Heaven and New Earth with New Jerusalem as the capital city

2) False Belief: **Universalism**
Every person will go to heaven

* This belief says that all will be saved because Jesus died for the sin of the whole world
	+ 1 John 2:2
	He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
* It is false because the rich man entered Hades at death
* At the second resurrection, those who are in Hades will be raised to stand before the Great White Throne
* At that judgment, all who have not trusted in Christ as Savior will be cast into the Lake of Fire

3) False Belief: **Pluralism**
Every person who believes in a god will be in heaven

* People who believe this also believe that every person who believes in “god” believes in the same God of the Bible
	+ They say Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Christians and Jews and the myriad of other religions all point to the same God and therefore all will be saved

John 14:6
Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

* + Only faith in Jesus Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone will result in eternal life in heaven

4) False Belief: **Purgatory**

* Temporary place where believers go to be purified from their sins until they are ready to enter into heaven
	+ The sufferings in purgatory are given by God as a substitute for the punishment for sins that believers should have received in time
	+ There is no mention of purgatory at all in the Bible
* 1 Peter 2:24
He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

5) False Belief: **Reincarnation**The rebirth of a soul in a new body

* When you die, you come back to earth again in a new body, either as a human or some other animal
	+ Hebrews 9:27
	Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

6) False Belief: **Annihilationism**Punishment in hell is not eternal

* Those who are sent to the Lake of Fire will suffer temporarily and then they will be annihilated or will cease to exist in body or spirit
	+ Matthew 25:46
	Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

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	Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

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