

Where Are the Dead?

Luke 16:19-26

INTRODUCTION:

A. Where are the Dead?

1. Shirley Wall – “Where is mother?” (Bessie Wall)
2. The cult group Heaven’s Gate.
 - a. Mass suicide of 39 people in late March of 1997
 - b. Believed a space ship was coming in tail of Halle Bop comet to take them to Heaven. Marshall Applegate was their misinformed leader.

B. **Job 14:14** – “If a man dies, shall he live again? . . .”

1. People in all ages have asked this question.
2. In every age of time, men have hoped to live again.
3. The Pharisees believed in a resurrection while the Sadducees taught against a resurrection.
4. Job’s question is a good one . . . Let’s let the Bible answer it for us.
 - a. Job’s answer: “I shall see God.” **Job 19:25-26**
 - b. David’s answer: “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” **Psalm 23:6**
 - c. Solomon’s answer: Man goes to his everlasting home, and the mourners go about the streets.” **Ecclesiastes 12:5**
 - d. Paul’s answer: “There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.” **2 Timothy 4:8**
 - e. Christ’s answer: “Because I live, you shall live also.” **John 14:19**

C. Why study this subject?

1. It is a Bible subject . . . Placed there by God.
2. People wonder about it and ask some serious questions. Sis. Shirley Wall asked because she was concerned and wanted to know.
3. The question is frequently answered with error.
4. There is widespread ignorance about this subject in our world.
5. We all have friends and loved ones who have already died.
6. The future of everyone of us is affected by this subject in that each one of us will eventually die . . . Unless of course the Lord should come first.

D. Where are the dead?

1. Only the Bible can answer this question truthfully . . . completely . . . and authoritatively.
2. To understand the answer to our question, one must first understand some other things.

E. Five important questions:

1. **What is man?**

- a. **2 Corinthians 4:16** – “Therefore we do not give up; even though our

outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day.”

- b. Man is a being with a dual nature.
 - 1. Physical nature = physical body. Lives on the outside.
 - 2. Spiritual nature = spirit/soul. Lives on the inside.

2. What is death?

- a. Death is a separation of that which lives on the inside from that which lives on the outside . . . A separation of the soul from the physical body.
- b. Again, what is separated? The soul from the body. **James 2:26** – “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- c. Preacher illustrating this at a funeral said: “The body is the shell but the nut has gone on.”

3. What happens at death?

- a. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** – “And the dust returns to the earth as it once was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”
- b. The medical community has determined that at the exact point of death there is an immediate change in body weight. Something has left the body . . . And that something is the soul that resided there.

4. Does the soul live after death . . . After it leaves the body?

- a. Some say yes . . . Some say no.
- b. Some say the soul simply goes out of existence at death.
- c. Some say the soul goes into a deep sleep at death.
- d. The Bible says yes . . . The soul does live after death and forever more.
- e. In Matthew 17:3 Moses and Elijah, long dead, appeared, talking to Jesus at the transfiguration.
 - 1. Moses had been dead some 1400 years, having died on Mt. Nebo. Deuteronomy 34:5-6
 - 2. Elijah had not died, but had been taken up from this earth in a chariot and horses of fire. Elisha stood by and watched. 2 Kings 2:11
 - 3. Please observe:
 - a. Both, having departed this earth through two different means in at two different times, both were yet alive when they were with Christ in Matthew 17:1-5.
 - b. Both returned to wherever it was that had come from.

5. Where does the living soul go at death?

- a. In **Luke 23:43**, Jesus told a dying thief: “I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise.”
- b. This was not the final reward. Three days later Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, “. . . For I have not yet ascended to my Father . . .” John 20:17
- c. Acts 2:27 says of Christ: Quoting from Psalm 16:8

1. (KJV) – “Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”
 2. (RSV) – “Thou wilt not leave my soul in Hades.”
 3. (NKJV) – “Because you will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will you allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”
 4. (NASB) – “Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.”
 5. (CSB) – “Because You will not leave my soul in Hades, or allow Your Holy One to see decay.”
 6. (NIV) – “Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”
6. At death the soul goes to Hades, “the unseen abode of the dead.”
- Luke 16:19-26** – “There was a rich man who would dress in purple and fine linen, feasting lavishly every day. ²⁰ But a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, was left at his gate. ²¹ He longed to be filled with what fell from the rich man’s table, but instead the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ ‘Father Abraham!’ he called out, ‘Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame!’ ²⁵ ‘Son,’ Abraham said, ‘remember that during your life you received your good things, just as Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, while you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us.’”
7. Hades is not the final abode for there is yet to be a resurrection and Judgment.
- a. **John 5:28-29** – “Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come out— those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of judgment.”
 - b. **1 Corinthians 15:50-54** – “Brothers, I tell you this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and corruption cannot inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Listen! I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. ⁵³ Because this corruptible must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal must be clothed with immortality. ⁵⁴ Now when this corruptible is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal is clothed with immortality, then the

saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

8. Before the judgment seat of Christ will we hear our eternal destiny.

Matthew 25:46 – “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

F. This short life is only the beginning of a person’s existence. **James 4:14** – “You don’t even know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are a bit of smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes.”

G. Introduction to the five major parts of the chart.

1. Section #1

a. The earth, the physical world, the natural world.

b. Two kingdoms: Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Satan

2. Section #2

a. Hades, the Hadean world – Two parts separated by a great gulf.

b. Paradise – “Abraham’s bosom” – Temporary place of rest before the judgment.

c. Torment – “Tartarus” – Temporary place of punishment before the final sentencing is handed out at the Judgment.

3. Section #3 – The Judgment

4. Section #4 – Heaven, the Christian’s permanent home after the judgment.

5. Section #5 – Hell (“Gehenna”) The permanent home of torment for the lost after the judgment.

SECTION #1 – OUR NATURAL WORLD

A. The world where we presently live . . . Our natural, physical world.

1. The Bible tells of its beginning. **Genesis 1:1** – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

2. The Bible tells of its end. **2 Peter 3:10** – “the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

B. Two kingdoms:

1. The Kingdom of Satan

a. **Matthew 4:8** – “Again, the Devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.”

b. **John 14:30** – “I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over Me.”

c. **John 16:33** – “. . . You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

d. **John 15:19** – “If you were of the world, the world would love [you as] its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you.”

2. The Kingdom of God – The Church that Christ built.
 - a. **Matthew 16:18** – “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it.”
 - b. **Matthew 6:33** – “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.”
 - c. **Colossians 1:13-14** – “He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
- C. A person can move from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God through obedience to the gospel of Christ.
 1. **Acts 2:47** – “. . . And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
 2. **Romans 12:2** – “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”
 3. **Colossians 1:13** – “. . . Has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.”
 4. How is this done?
 - a. Hear the gospel. **Romans 10:17** – “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.”
 - b. Believe the gospel. **Mark 16:16** – “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
 - c. Repent of sins. **Luke 13:3, 5** – “No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well!”
 - d. Confess Christ as God’s Son. **Matthew 10:32-33** – “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.
 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.
 - e. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins. **Acts 2:38** – Repent,” Peter said to them, “and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - f. Be faithful. **Revelation 2:10** – “. . . Be faithful . . .”
 5. Unfortunately, people leave the Kingdom of God and return to the Kingdom of Satan. **2 Timothy 4:10** – “for Demas has deserted me, because he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica . . .”
- D. The kingdom we are in at the time of death will determine where we will go after death. “Where death finds us, eternity will keep us.”
- E. Please listen carefully . . . Infants, young children, and some others are in neither kingdom.

1. They are **SAFE**, not **SAVED**. Saved implies that something has once been lost.
2. When the “Age of accountability” is reached, the formerly safe then move into the Kingdom of Satan where they will remain unless and until they move into the Kingdom of Christ . . . The CHURCH.
3. Can move to SAVED, but never back to SAFE.
4. Can move from safe to the world . . . From the world to the Church . . . From the Church back into the world . . . From the world back to the Church, etc. . . . But never back to SAFE.
5. Where we are at the time of our death will determine where we will be after our death when we enter the Hadean realm.
6. Where do “religious” people get the idea that babies are born in sin? They get it by not rightly dividing the word of truth when they read Psalm 51:5. Let me explain . . .
 - a. **Psalm 51:5** – “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” (KJV)
Psalm 51:5 – “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.” (NKJV)
Psalm 51:5 – “Indeed, I was guilty [when I] was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.” (HCSB)
 - b. Here is the explanation for David having made that statement.
 1. **Deuteronomy 23:2** - A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD. (KJV)
Deuteronomy 23:2 - One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD. (NKJV)
Deuteronomy 23:2 – “No one of illegitimate birth may enter the LORD’s assembly; none of his descendants, even to the tenth generation, may enter the LORD’s assembly.” (HCSB)
 2. **Genesis 38**: Story of Judah & Tamar
 - a. Judah fathered three children by Shunah, a Canaanite woman. (28:2-5)
 1. Er. (38:3)
 2. Onan. (38:2)
 3. Shelah. (38:5)
 - b. How the matter involving Tamar came about.
 - c. Judah selected Tamar to be Er’s wife. (38:6)
 - d. Because of his wickedness, Er was slain by the Lord. (38:7)
 - e. Judah told Onan to marry Tamar and raise up children to his brother,
Er. (38:9)

- f.. Onan spilled his seed upon the ground, so the Lord slew him also. (38:10)
- g. Judah told Tamar to remain a widow until his youngest son (Shelah) was grown. (38:11)
- h. Tamar returned to live in her father’s house. (38:11)
- i. Judah’s wife (Shulah) died. (38:12)
- j. Tamar saw that Shelah was grown and she was not give to him as a wife. (38:14)
- k. Tamar discarded her widow’s clothes and dressed as a harlot in order to entrap Judah. (38:14)
- l. Judah saw her and bargained to send her a young lamb in exchange for sex. (38:16-17)
- m. Judah gave Tamar three things as a pledge that he would provide the kid. (38:18)
 - 1. His signet. (38:18)
 - 2. His bracelets. (38:18)
 - 3. His staff. (38:18)
- n. Tamar conceived. (38:18)
- o. Judah went his own way, and Tamar discarded the veil and again put on her widow’s clothes. (38:19)
- p. By the hand of a friend, Judah sent to redeem the pledge but the “harlot” could not be found. (38:20)
 - 1. He inquired among the men of that place where the harlot was. (38:21)
 - 2. The men reported that there was no harlot in that area. (38:2 1)
 - 3. The friend returned to Judah and reported that the woman could not be found. (38:23)
- q. Three months later Judah was told that Tamar was pregnant (by whoredom). (38:24)
 - 1. Judah said to “bring her out, and let her be burned.” (38:24)
 - 2. Tamar said she was pregnant by the man who owned the signet, bracelets, and staff she had. (38:25)
 - 3. Judah saw the signet, bracelets, and staff and acknowledged that they belonged to him. (38:26)
 - 4. Judah said in **Genesis 38:26** — “. . . She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son...”
 - a. “And he never knew her again.” (38:26)
 - b. The birth of the two Sons.
 - 1. While Tamar traveled, a hand came forth, and the midwife put a scarlet thread upon it, and the child drew back his hand. (38:28)
 - 2. First born was Pharez. (38:29)

3. Zarah came forth with the scarlet thread upon his hand (38:30)
- r. Genesis 38 is inserted, probably, because Judah was progenitor of the Messiah, and in accord with Old Testament purpose to preserve family registers all along the line of succession, even though they contained some things not very praiseworthy.
- s. **Ruth 4:18-22**
 18 Now this is the genealogy of Perez: **Perez** (1) begot **Hezron** (2);
 19 Hezron begot **Ram** (3), and Ram begot **Amminadab** (4);
 20 Amminadab begot **Nahshon** (5), and Nahshon begot **Salmon** (6);
 21 Salmon begot **Boaz** (7), and Boaz begot **Obed** (8);
 22 Obed begot **Jesse** (9), and Jesse begot **David** (10).
- t. **Ruth 4:18-21**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Perez (A twin with Serah) | 6. Salmon |
| 2. Hezron | 7. Boaz |
| 3. Ram | 8. Obed |
| 4. Amminadab | 9. Jesse |
| 5. Nahshon | 10. David |
- u. **Remember: Jesus was born . . . and He wasn't born in sin!**
1. **2 Corinthians 5:21** – “He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2. **Hebrews 4:15** – “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin.”

SECTION #2 – THE HADEAN WORLD

- A. Various translations render the Hadean world as:
1. Hades (The unseen abode of the dead)
 2. Sheol
 3. Hell (KJV)
- B. The hadean Realm is a temporary dwelling place of departed souls from this earth, a place they will remain in until time on this earth ends and the time of the great judgment has arrived.
- C. The Hadean realm is comprised of two areas separated by a “great gulf.”
1. One part of the Hadean realm is a temporary resting place of the faithful dead from the time of their death on earth to the great judgment before Christ and God.
 - a. “Abraham’s bosom” **Luke 16:22**
 - b. “Paradise” – Where Jesus and the penitent thief went after they died.

1. **Luke 23:43** – “And He said to him, “ I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise.” Jesus arrived in paradise first because he died before the thief died.
 2. Paradise did not refer to Heaven, the permanent dwelling place of God. **John 20:17** – ““Don’t cling to Me,’ Jesus told her, ‘for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father—to My God and your God.””
 3. Our Lord’s body had been in the tomb three days, and His soul had been in Hades, “the unseen abode of the dead.” Left when His body was on the cross . . . Returned when body was in the tomb.
2. The other part of the Hadean realm is a place of torment (Tartarus) where the rich man went in **Luke 16:23** – (KJV) “And in hell (Tartarus) he lift up his eyes, being in torments . . .” Notice the plural.
- a. (NKJV) – “And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
 - b. (HCSB) – “And being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side.”
- a. Additional passages about the tormenting part of the Hadean realm.
1. **2 Peter 2:4** – “For if God didn’t spare the angels who sinned, but threw them down into Tartarus and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness until judgment.”
 2. **Jude 6** – “And He has kept, with eternal chains in darkness for the judgment of the great day, angels who did not keep their own position but deserted their proper dwelling ”
 3. **Matthew 8:29** – “Suddenly they shouted, ‘What do You have to do with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’”

SECTION #3 – THE JUDGMENT

- A. One judgment, and it comes at the end of time and the destruction of the physical earth.
1. **Hebrews 9:27** – “And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment.”
 2. **Acts 17:31** – “Because He has set a day on which He is going to judge the world in righteousness by the Man He has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead.”
 3. **Romans 14:10** – “. . . For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.”
 4. **2 Corinthians 5:10** – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or bad.”

5. **Hebrews 10:31** – “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!”
6. Great judgment scene in Matthew 25:31-46
- B. All people from Adam to the last person who has died is in the Hadean realm awaiting judgment at the end of time. When you die you will join them in one of its two parts.
- C. To clarify confusion that many have about the judgment . . . Jesus Christ will be the Judge.
 1. **John 5:22** – “The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son.”
 2. **John 5:27** – “And He has granted Him the right to pass judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”
- D. The judgment will be a time of formal eternal sentencing.
 1. **Matthew 25:34** – “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”
 2. **Matthew 25:41** – “Then He will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!’”

SECTION #4 – HEAVEN

- A. Heaven will become the final resting place of all the righteous of all the ages.
 1. **John 14:1-3** – “Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.”
 2. **1 Peter 1:4** – “and into an inheritance that is imperishable, uncorrupted, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”
- B. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Revelations, chapters 21 & 22 reveal wonderful things about that wonderful place.
 1. No sin there
 2. No curse there
 3. No sorrow there
 4. No pain there
 5. No separation there
 6. No darkness there
 7. No death there
- C. There is indeed, “a beautiful place called Heaven.” Few will enter it.

SECTION #5 – HELL (Gehenna)

- A. The final and eternal place of punishment for the wicked . . . the lost . . . the disobedient. Many will enter it.
1. Place of punishment in the Hadean realm is Tartarus.
Place of punishment after the Judgment is Gehenna . . . Hell. The 2nd death. First was physical . . . Second was spiritual.
 2. **Matthew 10:28** – “Don’t fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
 3. **Matthew 8:29** – “Suddenly they shouted, ‘What do You have to do with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’”
 4. **Matthew 25:41** – “Then He will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!’”
 5. **Revelation 14:11** – “And the smoke of their torment will go up forever and ever. There is no rest.”
- B. There is no hope for any and all who enter Hell.
1. Hell is eternal.
 2. Hell is a place of darkness.
 3. Hell is a place of eternal fire . . . Everlasting fire . . . Eternal punishment.
 4. Hell is a place of pain.
 5. Hell is a place of no rest. Rest is a good, thing but there will be no rest in Hell.
 6. No relief. Relief is a good thing, but there will be no relief in Hell.
 7. No hope. Hope is a good thing, but there will be no hope in Hell.
- C. Heaven has nothing bad . . . Hell has nothing good.

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS: WHERE ARE THE DEAD NOW? WHERE ARE THOSE NOW LIVING GOING? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

- A. God opens up His word and draws back the veil of death and gives us a glimpse of life beyond death as well as what will take place in a time yet future to this hour.
- B. Those that will enter paradise (Abraham’s bosom).
1. **Faithful Christians.** **Revelation 2:10** – “. . . Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
 2. **Those that are SAFE.** (Infants, young children, others).
 - a. **Matthew 18:3** – “I assure you,” He said, “unless you are converted and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”
 - b. Why would Jesus ask us to become like little children if little children were lost.

- c. If little children are lost, then Jesus is asking us to become converted and be lost. See how ridiculous that sounds? Little children are not lost.
- d. In **2 Samuel 12:23** King David said of his newborn son that died, “But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.”
- e. Those entering Paradise will eventually enter Heaven.

C. Those that enter Tartarus.

1. **Alien sinners.** (People who never obeyed the gospel of Christ).
2. **Unfaithful, lukewarm, and erring brethren.**
 - a. **Matthew 13:40-42** – “Therefore just as the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather from His kingdom everything that causes sin and those guilty of lawlessness. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
 - b. **2 Peter 2:20-21** – “For if, having escaped the world’s impurity through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in these things and defeated, the last state is worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to its own vomit, and, “a sow, after washing itself, wallows in the mud.”
 - c. Those entering Tartarus will eventually enter Gehenna . . . Hell.

D. What will happen at the end of time for Christians still living?

1. **John 5:28-29** - “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”
2. **Acts 24:15** - “Having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked”
3. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** - “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. ¹⁴ Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. ¹⁵ For we say this to you by a revelation from the Lord: We who are still alive at the Lord’s coming will certainly have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the

Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

2. **2 Thessalonians 2:1** – “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him”
3. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** – “And [to reward] with rest you who are afflicted, along with us. [This will take place] at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His powerful angels, ⁸ taking vengeance with flaming fire on those who don’t know God and on those who don’t obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These will pay the penalty of everlasting destruction, away from the Lord’s presence and from His glorious strength.”

CONCLUSION:

- A. Death comes to every family. There is no way to avoid it. Good doctors, excellent care of one’s self and prayer to God may delay it But it still comes. Death strikes the rich family the same as the poor, the powerful the same as the weak, and the religious the same as the unreligious.
- B. **Romans 14:10-12** – “. . . . For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written: **As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will give praise to God.** ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
- C. **Proverbs 13:15** – “. . . . The way of the transgressor is hard.”
 1. How true that passage is. The transgressor stumbles in the darkness of sin in this life, and after death he suffers in torment until the judgment, after which he will burn in the fires of an eternal Hell forever.
 2. Who do some choose to remain transgressors?
- D. God takes care of His own **NOW** and **FOREVER!**
 1. In life
 2. In death
 3. In the Hadean realm called paradise
 4. In Heaven
 5. The Scriptures affirm God’s care for His children.
 - a. **Romans 8:28** – “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.”
 - b. **Matthew 28:20** – “. . . . And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - c. **Hebrews 13:5** – “. . . . for He Himself has said, I will never leave you or forsake you.”
 - d. **John 14:-1-3** – “Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you.

³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also.”

E. God wants you to be in Heaven. Christ wants you to be in Heaven. Christians want you to be in Heaven.

1. Do you need to leave the Kingdom of Satan and enter the Kingdom of God?
2. Do you need to leave the state of unfaithfulness, lukewarmness, erring, and return to faithfulness?
3. Listen friends, do it now before death settles it for you!

F. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**