

WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

(Luke 16:19-31)

- Introduction:
1. In the ***Humanist Manifesto II***, it is stated that, "*There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body...Modern science discredits such historic concepts as the 'ghost in the machine'...Rather, science affirms that the human species is an emergence form natural evolutionary forces... Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns...*"
 2. In spite of what has been said, life surviving the death of the body is a reality.
 3. And we are faced with many questions regarding life after death.
 - a. What will it be like?
 - b. Where will I go when I die?
 - c. Will I be conscious or in a sleep state?
 - d. Will I have a memory of things and people on earth?
 - e. Will I be able to recognize others who have died?
 4. These are important questions that can be answered by the word of God by examining Luke 16:19-31.

I. WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

- A. Are they in the ground buried?
 1. No.
 2. (James 2:26).
- B. Are they in Heaven or Hell?
 1. No.
 2. (John 3:13).
 3. (Acts 2:34).
 4. (II Peter 2:9).
- C. Are they somewhere in between?
 1. Yes.
 2. (John 20:17).
 3. They are in a place called "**Hades**".
 4. Hades literally means the place of the unseen, and has reference to the abode of departed spirits.

II. THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

- A. Lazarus was a poor beggar who begged for food from a certain rich man (16:20-21).
- B. Both Lazarus and this rich man died, but now their roles are reversed (16:22-25).
 1. Lazarus was being comforted.

- 2. The rich man was being tormented.
- C. Abraham informed the rich man that he was beyond help (16:26).
- D. The rich man then asked if someone could go back and warn his family of this place in which he found himself (16:27-28).
- E. He was informed that such could not occur (16:29-31).

III. LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE RICH MAN & LAZARUS

- A. *"Hades"* and *"Hell"* are not to be confused.
 - 1. *"Hades"* refers to the realm of disembodied spirits.
 - a. (Matthew 16:18).
 - b. (Acts 2:27,31).
 - c. (Revelation 20:13-14).
 - 2. *"Gehenna"* or *"Hell"* has reference to the eternal destiny of the wicked.
 - a. (Matthew 10:28).
 - b. (Matthew 5:22).
- B. Hades has two parts.
 - 1. Place for the righteous (Luke 23:43; 16:19-31).
 - 2. Place for the unrighteous (II Peter 2:4; Luke 16:19-31).
- C. There is no second chance after death (Luke 16:26).
- D. There is consciousness after death (Luke 16:22-23).
- E. There is recognition after death (Luke 16:23-24).
- F. There is remembrance after death (Luke 16:27-28).
- G. There is no contact with the living after death (Luke 16:27-31).

- Conclusion:
- 1. Since we do survive after death, and since there will be no second chances after death, should not now be the time to prepare for our death?
 - 2. Eternity is too long and Hell too horrible to delay obedience.