

What Happens When You Die

Luke 16:19-31

Introduction

Many people don't like dealing with the subject of death. We don't like to think about it or talk about, even though we all know it's inevitable. It is a topic that can be difficult because it involves both the unknown and the pain we feel when we think of leaving those we love or having those we love leave us.

Everyone is going to die because of sin. Sin entered the world and the result is that physical death is now a part of our human existence. (Romans 5:12) In the story, told by Jesus in Luke 16:19-31, both the rich man and the poor man died. We must remember death is no respecter of persons; everyone will experience it no matter what our life circumstances are on earth. We must be conscious of the reality of death throughout our lives because we do not know how long we have been given to live. Old age is relative when you consider that each person has an appointed time to die, (Hebrews 9:27) which may come during one's youth or into their elder years. It is for this reason that we cannot delay, rather we are to heed the words of our Savior, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." (Luke 9:23) The parable of the rich man and the poor man, as told in our Scripture text, is the perfect example of the necessity to prioritize God in this life because once we have entered our eternal state there is no turning back.

Death involves the concept of separation. It is not the cessation or annihilation of life but the separation of the body from the soul (Genesis 2:7). After death we pass consciously into eternity - the destination beyond death. Believers enter immediately into the joyful presence of God (2 Corinthians 5:6-9), while unbelievers enter immediately into the agony of separation from God. Either eternal state cannot be changed once it is entered; it is a permanent position. The Good News of the Gospel is that it removes the sting of death for those who accept Him as Savior!

Getting Started

1. How do you *really* feel about death? Do you have any anxiety or fear about this event that we all must go through (if Christ should not come back beforehand)? Are you totally confident and comfortable thinking about your own death and destination? Share your thoughts with your group.
2. How did today's sermons line up with previous beliefs or understandings you have had about what happens when we die? Do your previous beliefs align with Dr. Evans' teaching? Were you raised to believe something different?

Let's Get Personal

1. Have you experienced the recent passing of someone that you love or care for? Share your experience with your group and let them know about this event in your life.
2. Think about how you handled the death of someone you love. How did your knowledge of death and eternity affect your outlook?
3. What does the Bible say about why we must experience death? Take a look at Romans 3:23 and 5:12.
4. What does happen to believers when we die? Take a look at 2 Corinthians 5:8, Luke 23:43, and Acts 7:55-56.

Take the Next Step

1. Are you ready to die? Since none of us know our death date, if your appointment to move into eternity came sooner than later, what would you need to change in your life to prepare for that transition?
2. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at what God's Word says about our victory over death: (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

Renew Your Mind

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting." 1 Corinthians 15:55