

The End Times
Hades
2 Corinthians 5.8

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

As we study our way through the End Times using The End Times Chart we come to our next study on our chart. That is the study of Hades. In studying Hades we are going to address the question of **“What happens to me when I die during this Church Age?”**

There are many different thoughts about what happens after death. Some believe,

- **Reincarnation** – Many pagan religions teach reincarnation. That we come back in another life. Some believe that we might be a lesser or higher life form. Reincarnation is rejected by the Word of God.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

- **Stasis** – This is that we are just nowhere; we are just left kind of floating in a never land awaiting the resurrection and future judgment. Those who hold this view generally believe that we are in a comatose condition having no consciousness and no awareness of time or matter.
- **Sleep** – Some teach that people enter a period of lasting sleep while they await the coming awakening and Judgment.
- **Annihilation** – The Jehovah’s Witness teach that lost people are annihilated and no longer exist. They teach this because they do not believe in a literal hell.
- **The Christian Eternity** – Taught in this lesson.

So the question arises, **“What does the Word of God say happens to people when they die?”**

For the saved there is the glorious promise of our text,

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

I am thrilled to know that, as a born-again Christian, when I complete my journey in this corrupt world, my soul and spirit will go into the presence of our my Lord and Savior. In that presence,

- I will have being
- I will have thoughts
- I will have memories
- I will know joy
- I will have emotions
- I will give thanksgivings
- I will praise my Lord and Savior

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I will show you more on this glorious eternal existence shortly.

The Word of God Teaches about,

A. Death Before The Resurrection Of Christ (Luke 16.19-31)

1. The Saved (Luke 16.19-22a)

Luke 16:19-22 ¹⁹ *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: . . .*

What a glorious picture and comfort for all who put their hope and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. One day, when our mortal life is over, our Heavenly Father will dispatch a band of angels from heaven, who will come and gather around us. At the divinely ordained moment, they will reach over and lift up our soul and spirit, our being, and carry us into the presence of our Lord.

Now, in the case of Lazarus, before the resurrection and ascension of Christ, that meant that Lazarus was taken to **the Paradise side of Hades**.

Hades In Jewish Tradition – Hades according to Jewish tradition, and clearly in the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, was a real place divided in

to two parts. There was the Paradise side for the righteous, and the torments side for the unrighteous. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught that Lazarus went to Paradise.

Hence, before the resurrection and ascension of our Lord saved or redeemed people went to the Paradise section of Hades.

2. The Lost (Luke 22.b-23)

*Luke 16:22-23*²² *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: **the rich man also died, and was buried;***²³ ***And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, . . .***

On the other side of a great chasm, in hades was the abode of the unrighteous. Notice that when the rich man died he immediately opened his eternal eyes in torments.

Now notice the realities of this place called Hades, both Lazarus and the rich man, called by some Dives, are

- **Conscious (vs 23)** – *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.* – The Rich man looks and sees and perceives. He feels his torments and can see Lazarus afar off in paradise, and he knows the difference.
- **Conscientious (vs 24-28)**

*Luke 16:24-31*²⁴ *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, **and send Lazarus,** that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

Notice that he is conscientious enough to beg for mercy.

²⁵ *But Abraham said, **Son, remember** that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

Notice that he is conscientious enough to remember is life's choices.

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The Word of God Teaches about,

- A. **Death Before the Resurrection of Christ**
 1. The Saved - Paradise

²⁶ *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

Notice he is conscientious enough to realize the firmness of his judgment.

²⁷ *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

Notice that he is conscientious enough to remember his family.

²⁹ *Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. ³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

- **Continuous (vs 26, 28)**

Luke 16:26 *And beside all this, between us and you **there is a great gulf fixed:** so that they which would pass from hence to you **cannot; neither can they pass to us,** that would come from thence.*

Notice that he will have no relief from that place. There is no escaping his judgment once one leaves this mortal life.

So what is this eternally condemned man doing in Hades and torments?

Luke 16:28 *For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

He is begging for the lives of those he left behind.

B. Death After The Resurrection Of Christ (2 Cor 5.8; 1 Pet 3.21-22; Eph 4.8-10) – Now you need to know that for the righteous and redeemed things

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The Word of God Teaches about,

A. Death Before the Resurrection of Christ

1. The Saved – Paradise
2. The Lost - Torments

changed when our Lord ascended following His physical resurrection. Notice our text again,

2 Corinthians 5:8 *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

The Word of God indicates that when we born-again Christians die in this mortal life that we go into the presence of our Lord.

Where is our Lord Jesus Christ right now?

1 Peter 3:21-22 ²¹ *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: ²² **Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.***

Our Lord is seat at the right hand of our Heavenly Father. So for us to be in His presence, then that is where we will be; gathered around the throne of Almighty-God, dwelling in eternity.

Notice what the Word of God says,

Ephesians 4:8-10 ⁸ *Wherefore he saith, **When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*** ⁹ *(Now that he ascended, what is it but that **he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?*** ¹⁰ ***He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens,** that he might fill all things.)*

What does all of this mean? I believe that our Lord, before He ascended went down into hades and led captivity captive. Our Lord went into hades and led all that were in Paradise to join him in the presence of our Heavenly Father. So that the Paradise side of Hades is now empty. All that is left in hades is torments and those condemned souls.

Now, are these redeemed in the New Jerusalem? That I do not know with certainty. I know that they are in the glorious presence of our Lord, but I am not certain that this means the New Jerusalem. Because, the New Jerusalem will be a physical place where the resurrected saints will dwell for all eternity.

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- A. Death Before the Resurrection of Christ**
 - 1. The Saved – Paradise
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- B. Death After the Resurrection of Christ**

They will inhabit that glorious city during the Millennium and they will inhabit that glorious city on the New Heaven and the New Earth. However, as they await the rapture and resurrection of the redeemed of all time they are beings but they are spiritual in nature.

C. Your Death Before The Rapture of the Church –

So the question arises, what about you? Are you ready to enter into eternity.

We Christians often ask people, do you want to have eternal life? The truth is that everyone is going to live forever. Absolutely everyone. The question is, where will you spend eternity?

If you die in this world before the rapture of the Church, then you will spend eternity in one of two places. You will either be in torments or you will be in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. How do you get into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ?

***Romans 10:9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Nov 2, 2014, Evening

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