

Confusion Regarding Death

Man is the source of most of his own *confusion* (cf. Acts 16:20; 19:29,32; 21:31) rather than God, 1Cor.14:33.

The Scriptures are given, at least in part, to *correct* this confusion, 2Tim.3:16-17.

But to prevent further confusion regarding the Scriptures, the Principle of Harmony/Agreement must be employed, 2Pet.2:20-21. That is, since neither God nor His Word is the *source* of man's confusion, we must look to the Scriptures in way that not only recognizes, but also utilizes their harmony/agreement, rather than seeking interpretations (and their applications) that pit one against another. For example, *belief* saves in John 3:16, but *baptism* saves in 1Pet.3:21. To pick one to the exclusion of the other *distorts* (Gal.1:6-8) the harmony/agreement of the Scriptures.

In this same way- and perhaps for some of the same reasons, there is considerable confusion about the *death* of man and what follows it. Let's see if we can use the harmony and agreement of the Scriptures to eliminate some of the confusion.

Is Luke 16:19-31 a parable, or the record of an actual event which presupposes every one else's path to eternal destiny?

There are no "indicators" that *The Rich Man and Lazarus* is a parable:

- Paragraph headings and comprised lists are uninspired, and therefore fallible.
- There is no introduction typical to most parables such as, "*The kingdom of heaven is like...*" (*et al*); while some parables do not include such, most do.
- There is no *throwing/laying alongside* (the meaning of the root, *parabole* from which our English word is derived).
- There is no *earthly story* with a *heavenly meaning* that is characteristic of all parables.
- Thus, there is no proceeding from the *known/familiar* to the *unknown/unfamiliar*, or from the *concrete* to the *abstract* that is the point of parables.
- Therefore, it is a *real/actual account* of the state of souls after death but before resurrection. How so? Look further with me...

At death, man's *soul/spirit* is separated from his body, Jas.2:26.

His *disembodied* soul/spirit goes to either:

- *Paradise*, Luke 23:43; 2Cor.12:4; Luke 16:22; not to *heaven* itself; or,
- *Torment*, Luke 16:23; not to *hell* itself.
- Both are part of the *Hadean Realm (Hades)* to which all disembodied souls/spirits go- even Jesus, and the Rich Man and Lazarus, did so, Acts 2:27; Luke 16:22-23.

His *body* remains (and decays) in the earth, Acts 2:29....

Until Resurrection!

Christ is our example in all things, Heb.2:14.

- His disembodied soul/spirit was *reunited* with His body at His resurrection, Acts 2:30-33.
- Likewise, at The resurrection, our souls/spirits will rejoin our “resurrected” bodies, which have been *reformed* and *refitted* for eternity, 1Cor.15:35-54; Phil.3:21.
- And then ascend to God and Christ for *judgment*- the passing of sentence rather than a chance to *plead our case* or *make excuses*, 2Cor.5:10; John 5:28-29, and be destined for all eternity to the *joys of heaven* or the *horrors of hell*.

Given these things (derived from *harmonizing* rather than *pitting* passages against one another)...

I think I understand why those *without Christ* fear death and attempt to prolong physical life as long as humanly possible, Eph.2:1-3,12.

What I'm not at all sure that I understand is “our” (supposed Christians) attitudes toward life and death.

- Heb.2:14-15, “we” are supposed to have *been delivered from the fear of death*.
- Phil.1:21-24, “we” are supposed to view *death as gain* and *desire to depart and be with Christ* understanding such to be *very much better*.
- 2Cor.5:6-9, “we” are also supposed to *be of good courage* regarding these things because “we” *walk by faith, not by sight* and *prefer to be absent from the body* and *to be at home with the Lord....* unless such is the problem... that we are *faithlessly walking by sight* and *prefer to be* and are all-too-much *at home in the body*.
- Just concerning yourself, can you pray, “*Lord, come quickly!*”? Now the big question: (again, just concerning yourself) Do you pray, “*Lord, come quickly!*”?
- You can, and perhaps will, if you have faith to commitment through obedience, 2Tim.4:6-8.
- Then your *passing* can be a *blessed* event, Rev.14:13; Ps.116:15!