



Philippians 1:21–23; Luke 16:19–31; 2 Corinthians 5:6–8

Last week, we asked the question, “*What happens when we die?*” We saw from Hebrews 9 that death is inevitable, judgment is coming, and Christ is returning. But this raises another question: “*Where do we go in the meantime?*” Scripture shows us that death is not the end of our existence. For the faithful, it is a doorway into the presence of Christ. For the unbeliever, it is separation and regret.

I. I. Death Is Not the End (Philippians 1:21-23)

- A. “For me, to live is Christ and to die is _____.”
- B. Death brings us closer to Christ: “I long to depart and be with _____, which is far better” (v. 23).
- C. Without Christ, death is loss: opportunity, hope, eternal life.

II. The Reality of the Afterlife (Luke 16:19-31)

- A. “The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torment in Hades, he _____...” (vv. 22–23).
- B. A great reversal: “Now he is _____ here, while you are in _____” (v. 25).
- C. A fixed destiny: “A great _____ has been fixed... so that those who want to pass... cannot” (v. 26).
- D. Scripture is enough: “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them” (v. 29).

III. To Be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

- A. “We are always _____ and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.”
- B. “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
- C. “We would prefer to be away from the body and at _____ with the Lord.”
- D. Jesus promised the thief, “_____ you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).

IV. As We Close

- A. Philippians 1: “To live is Christ and to die is gain.”
- B. Luke 16: comfort or torment — no second chances.
- C. 2 Corinthians 5: to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.
- D. “_____ is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Questions

1. What does it mean for death to be “gain” for the Christian? How does this perspective change the way we live now?
2. In Luke 16:22-23, Lazarus was comforted while the rich man was in torment. What does this teach us about the reality of life after death?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus describes conscious awareness after death, not “soul sleep”? How does this shape our hope and urgency?
4. Paul wrote, “We would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8). How can this assurance give us courage in the face of death and comfort in grief?
5. Luke 16:26 says, “A great chasm has been fixed.” How does this truth highlight the urgency of Paul’s warning in 2 Cor. 6:2, “Now is the day of salvation”?

Answers

Now
Gain
Christ
Today
Looked Up
Home
Comforted
Confident
Agony
Chasm