

# 06/09/24 Message

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Part of Heaven vs Hell

June 8, 2024

## Message: Death and the Afterlife

### Series: Heaven vs Hell

This series is focused on two places, two destinations, heaven and hell. The dichotomy is polarizing, and the distinction is relevant. In reality, one can choose the journey and the destination. Beliefs in the afterlife and its destinations should be based on our source of truth, the Bible, God's Holy Word.

## Introduction

- Beliefs on the afterlife, heaven, and hell should be Biblical
  - We should read Scripture praying, "God, speak to me"
- Many aren't going to heaven and that means...
  - Many are going to hell

## Truths of Today

- God is the only one who knows when you will die
- Most people if given the option would choose life in a fallen world over the perfection of heaven
- If given the choice, many people will choose family over God
- If given the choice, many people would choose to extend suffering over perfect healing (for themselves or a loved one)

One writer said this:

- Even though we know we are going to die and even though we know it is the place where believers will spend eternity, most of us don't give it much thought. We seem to have more interest in where we are going for lunch than where we are going for eternity.

Our challenge:

- Don't let the "here and now" drown out your thoughts of heaven

## **Earthly Life is Temporary**

Truth is, and as strange as it sounds, one of the barriers between us and God – as we get more comfortable with life "here" we have less desire for life "there."

- We're all dying
  - Life here is temporary
  - Life there is forever (wherever there is)

## **When a Believer Dies**

- Angels carry your soul to heaven
  - Read Luke 16:22 (NIV)
- Heaven is your forever home
  - Read Luke 16:26 (NIV)
- You immediately enter God's presence
  - 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NKJV)

It's been said...

We think we are in the land of the living, going to the land of the dying, when in reality we are in the land of the dying, headed for the land of the living.

- We are conscious and in command of thoughts, feelings, speech, and memories
- You participate in worship with everyone there before the throne of God and in the presence of Jesus
  - Revelation 5; 15
- You will recognize and talk with believers who arrived before you
  - 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)

## **When an Unbeliever Dies**

***Revelation 20:14 (NLT)***

Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.

The word translated grave is also the word for hades. Hades and hell are not the same because hades is thrown into the lake of fire. There is a temporary hell (hades) until hades is thrown into the lake of fire, a permanent hell (Gehenna).

*Heaven isn't why we choose God, it's a benefit, but there are so many benefits you can have in the "here and now" all when you choose Jesus. You don't have to wait on heaven. He wants to be in your life right now and if you don't let Him in "right now" when you arrive in hades it will be too late.*

—Pastor Chad

## **How Can a Loving God Send People to Hell**

*He doesn't! A relationship with Jesus is simple, you're either in or out. If you're in, your eternity is with Him. If you're out, your eternity is without Him. He's not making the decision. You are!*

—Pastor Chad

Hell is a consequence of an intentional decision not to believe in Jesus, not to trust in Jesus, to have no meaningful relationship with Jesus, to not love Jesus more than the world, to not love Jesus more than loving yourself.

Jesus chose you! It's a great time to choose Him!