

## What Happens When We Die? (Part 2) The Fate of the Lost *Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15 (NKJV)*

**Introduction:** In this last message we will discuss the terrible fate of those who die without Jesus Christ. The lost fear death and for good reason. *Job 18:14* calls death “**the king of terrors.**” We are reminded in Hebrews 2:14 that the devil holds people in bondage through the fear of death. And in 1 Corinthians 15:26 death is called “**the last enemy.**” I might note one similarity between the fate of the saved and the lost. At the moment of death, the soul enters a new realm while the body is buried in the grave. For the believer, the moment of death brings him into the personal presence of Christ. For the unbeliever, death begins an experience of unending conscious punishment. The Bible is filled with warnings to the lost about their fate, so much that we cannot cover it in one message. For our purposes today I will attempt to summarize the fate of the lost in four short statements:

**1. At the moment of death, the soul of the lost is sent to hell where it is in \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 16:19-31)**

**Hell:** comes from the Greek word “**Hades**” which is the same as the Hebrew word “**Sheol**” The picture of Hades revealed by Jesus is that of the other world: the unseen world, the spiritual dimension of being. In the Luke passage Jesus says that Hades is a place which is divided into two huge areas or sections. The two areas are separated by a great gulf that is impassible. One area is a place of sorrow. The other area is a place of Paradise where believers go. According to Jesus, only two areas exist in the other world: *Paradise*, the place of glory, and *hell*, the place of torment.

**2. The Punishment is \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 9:43-48; Matthew 25:41, 46; 18:8; Jude 1:7; 2 Thess. 1:9 Rev. 14:11)** This a much debated subject today. As for me, I always default to what God’s Word says. It teaches an eternal punishment for those who do not know our Lord. The Scriptures I’ve given here are just a few. *Mark 9:43-48* for instance speaks of **the fire that is not quenched and the worm that does not die**-a reference to the continuing existence of human personality in hell.

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ at the Great White Throne judgment. (Rev. 20:11-15) This is a sad scene. Every unbeliever will have his or her day in court. There will be no lawyers, no jury of peers, no appeals and no acquittals. Notice they are all standing as the time for kneeling has passed. They have all rejected the salvation of Jesus Christ. They all stand before the throne of God bearing their own sin. They are all found guilty of breaking God's law. (John 3:17-18)
4. The Unsaved are then cast into the lake of fire where they will live in torment forever, \_\_\_\_\_ from the presence of Almighty God. (Rev. 20:15) If this is unbearable to think about, then why not do whatever is necessary to avoid such a fate? This is the final destiny of those who do not know Jesus Christ. To make it more personal, it is the final destiny of your friends and neighbors, your loved ones, your parents, brothers, sisters, your children (of accountable age), if they die without salvation through Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** The reality of hell is more than just a theoretical doctrine. There is a place reserved for you in the lake of fire unless you, by a conscious choice (*as you are drawn by God*) put your complete trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. HOW? By taking the next step to peace with God: We are told how in **Romans 10:9-10** <sup>9</sup>*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* <sup>10</sup>*For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* If you would like to know more about how you can have this relationship with Christ, speak with our "Next Steps" team this morning or see me, pastor Ben or one of our deacons after the service.