If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

God’s Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Mathis, Lamar Mathis, Ms. Matchett, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mr. Winns.

Out of Town: Mr. and Mrs. Nick Law

* Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
* Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
* Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
* Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com.
* Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin

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What Happens After We Die?

By Derek Long

Many people have questions about what happens when we die. For those who are still alive, we have no experiential knowledge of what takes place after death. Since people are not rising from the dead today, we do not have any modern eyewitnesses we can interview and find out what happens after we die. Perhaps our lack of information leads us to have differing views and fears about what takes place after death. The Bible reveals to us information about death and events after death so we do not have to remain ignorant or in fear of death (2 Timothy 1:10).

The Bible gives us a description about what takes place when a person dies. When a person dies physically, their spirit leaves their body (James 2:26). The physical body will eventually return to the dust out of which it was made and the spirit will return to God (Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7). Death does not mean the end of our existence because we are created in the image of God with a spirit which will exist throughout eternity. Death is something all who do not remain alive until the Lord returns will have to face.

One of the most insightful passages regarding what takes place after we die is found in Luke 16:19-31. In this passage, Jesus gives us an account of a rich man and a beggar, named Lazarus, who both end up dying and what occurs after their deaths. We will look at these verses to help us understand some things which happen after we die.

After we die, we go to one of two different places. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus, these places are referred to as Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:22) and torments in hades (Luke 16:23). Abraham’s bosom is a place of comfort for the righteous after they die (Luke 16:25). Torments, as the name suggests, is a place of torment with fire (Luke 16:23-25, 28). All the dead are in one of these two places and one cannot go from one place to the other following their death (Luke 16:26). It is clear there are no second-chances after we die to get our lives right with God. There is no such place as purgatory spoken of in the Bible where people spend some time to pay off their sins and then are released to enjoy comfort.

After we die, we remain conscious and are still capable of feeling pain. The rich man in Luke 16 is obviously still conscious and suffering pain (Luke 16:24-25). Death does not bring about an annihilation of the soul and neither does it result in a soul sleep in which we are unconscious or incapable of feeling pain. The wicked are suffering torment from the time of their death and after the judgment will experience eternal punishment in hell (Matthew 25:46).

After we die, we continue to have the ability to remember things about this life. The rich man is capable of remembering he has five brothers who are heading toward torment if they do not repent (Luke 16:27-28, 30). The account of the rich man and Lazarus reminds us we continue to remember things after we die. After death we remember things about our life on earth but we no longer share in things done under the sun (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6). We are not looking down upon loved ones to see what they are doing, etc. as some would teach. We are cut off from activities which are taking place on the earth. In addition to being able to remember things about this life there appears to be some form of recognition of people after we die. The rich man knows who Lazarus and Abraham are (Luke 16:23).

After we die, we do not immediately go to heaven or hell. When Jesus speaks to the thief on the cross who was about to die, He promises the thief will be with Him in Paradise (Luke 23:43). Paradise appears to be another term to describe Abraham’s bosom. On the day of judgment, death and hades will be emptied out and done away with (Revelation 20:13-14). The righteous and wicked will be in their eternal place of punishment or reward after the judgment. It has been compared at times to a criminal who is found guilty of a crime and thus remains in prison until sentencing. The wicked are guilty and are in a place of punishment awaiting the day of judgment.

After we die, we will have to face the judgment of God (Hebrews 9:27). We only get the chance to live our life once and then we die and must face God in judgment. All men will have to stand before God in judgment (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). If we do not know God and have not obeyed the gospel, we will be punished eternally with fire (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Are we ready to die and meet God in judgment?