

Access Denied!



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Once we get off at the last stop, there is no turning back; no crossing over to the other side, we have arrived at our eternal destination! Only *this* life is our opportunity to be ready for the *next*! Only in *this* life can we learn spiritual lessons of trust on God through the Atonement Blood of His Son. *This* life is the *only* place where God prepares people for Heaven.

Two choices face everyone on earth—trust *God* or trust *self*. Only *one* life on earth is given to learn *how* to trust God in Heaven. When the rich man pleaded for a drop of water to cool his tongue, Abraham said: Luke 16:25 “*Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

26 “*And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence*”—*Access is Denied* at that point!

We think of many “*good things*” God has blessed us with over the years, and we ponder how we *used* them; or maybe *abused* them; or

possibly *shared* them with others when we had the opportunity to do it! When we are blessed with good health and strength, we can give our time and energy to do something worthwhile for another.

We are to treat *others* the way we want to be treated—*today* is the *day* to start doing that. Deuteronomy 8:17 “*And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. 18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*”

God has richly blessed us, so we are grateful for all He has given. The question is: Do we want to be highly esteemed by *the world*; or highly esteemed by *the Lord*! Most of us have too many toys, tools, and trappings, but none of that means much when we arrive at our *Last Stop*!

Once we are on the other side, there is no coming back—access to return is denied! *This* is the one *life* given to us to be right with God and to be forgiving of everyone. When we are at peace with God, we will be at peace with everyone else, and God then *blesses* us with His *gift* of eternal life—which is by faith in the Atonement Blood of His Son.

The time when everyone will cross over to the other side, approaches—Luke 16:22 “*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*”

This is *not* a parable but a *true account* of what two people experienced when they crossed over to the other side. Jesus never calls people by their name in His parables, but both Abraham and Lazarus are mentioned here. This is a real *account* of real *people* in a real *place*—it is *the other side*. They lived on earth as we are doing

today—and *how* they lived here *determined* their *destiny there*!

Our *responsibility* and *duty* are to follow Jesus—we are *obligated* to do that, because He willingly gave *His life* to bring *change* to *our life and attitudes*. Romans 8:12-13 We are under *no obligation* to live “*After the flesh*” as the world does—which is a life of no faith; no hope; and no God. If we *continue on* that rebellious path, we “*will die*” spiritually, but if we keep trusting God in faith, through the Blood of Jesus and by the power of His Spirit, we “*will live.*”

Romans 8:18 “*I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*” Trials experienced *today*, refine faith in the Blood of Christ tomorrow and beyond! Any *test* of faith compels us to *trust* God for the ability to *endure* in the faith—as we *claim* victory and our *Atonement* rights!

Lazarus went through tough *times* and *tests* during his life on earth, but now he is in Heaven with Abraham. Lazarus *had* been hungry but is now *filled*. We can be so hungry that even crumbs seem good. Asking a *blessing* on our food is a reminder to not take any meal for granted. If God did *not* provide, we could be longing for crumbs.

Life goes by quickly, and no one gets a *do-over*; or a *mulligan*—replay a golf shot—there are no *second chances*—it is *one shot*, then *Judgment Day*. Hebrews 9:27 “*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*”

Rich or poor; success or failure; famous or unknown in this life; we all head for the other side—and once we are there, there is no crossing over. If we ask: *Has life gone by for you quickly*;

the reply is always: *Yes, it surely has. Life does go by rapidly, and no one gets a second chance once we arrive at the Last Stop!* Hebrews 9:27 *“As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*

The trial may be difficult; the test may be extended, but the reward of continuing to believe God and trust on the Atonement Blood of Christ—is far more valuable than anything on earth. 2 Corinthians 4:17 *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”*

God’s creation is *longing* to be free from the grip of sin—*longing* for their new home. Because of Adam’s sin, he was told Genesis 3:17 *“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.”* A day of freedom from that curse of sin is promised to all believers who endure through trials and tests—and retain their faith in God for everything.

In the meantime, our responsibility is to Hebrews 3:13-14 *“Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.”*

The converting of our *rebellious* heart from *unbelief* in God about anything and everything, to a *believing* heart that *trusts* God through the Blood of Christ for all things and every issue, must take place in *this* life—there is no crossing over afterward—*access* to the other side is *denied* at that point.

The rebellious nature, we must be delivered *from*, will not trust God for anything in this life—we have to be delivered from that sinful nature. Galatians 5:24 *“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh [sinful nature] with the affections and lusts [passions and desires]”—of that sin nature.*

How we *live* and on whom we *trust* in this life is the issue. Many unbelievers think that Hell is a place to party—a place where people hang out with friends, but that is absolutely *not true*—Hell is a *real* place with *real* people suffering *real* torture forever and ever—it is *not* to be made light of—ever! The rich man Luke 16:23 *“In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.”*

The man is conscious; his vision is clear; but he does *not* like what he is experiencing. Some think that death just means life is over, and there is nothing on the other side, but this man is very much alive. Death just unlocked the door *to* the other side, and he does *not* like what is behind that door. His own choices in life brought him to that horrible place.

To believe that Hell is anything but what it really *is*—a place of never-ending torture, is a lie straight from the devil so that people will not take the *Truth* of God seriously. The Christian life is a *very* serious matter and must *never* be taken lightly. To *sound* the trumpet is to *warn* the world that trouble is coming for disobeying God in this life, and even far worse trouble is rushing toward them for an eternity.

The infamous American atheist, Robert Ingersoll, said: *The idea of Hell was born of revenge and brutality; I have no respect for any man who preaches it! I despise and defy this doctrine* unquote. It does *not* matter what anyone *thinks*; but it *does* matter what is *true*! Even if someone does *not* believe in Hell, it is *still* a *real place*, with *real people* suffering *real torture*. The Scriptures cannot be any clearer on the subject—and it is *Jesus* who is speaking in the reference passage Luke 16.

If there is no Hell, Jesus is not being truthful, which is not possible—Revelation 19:11 *“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True,*

and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.” Since it is true, then billions of people are *deceived* by the devil to think that Hell does *not* exist or is *not* so bad.

A follower of the apostle John, Polycarp, knew how *real* Hell was. When he was sentenced to death for his beliefs, he said: *Thou threatenest me with fire which burneth for an hour, and after is extinguished, but art ignorant of the fire of the coming judgment and of eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly,* unquote. He knew that Hell was *real*, and he wanted to *warn* people about going there.

Unbelievers search for contentment, fulfillment, and happiness in many ways and in many things—but without God, they will never find them. The unbelieving and unrepentant shut God *out* of their life, so they do *not trust Him* in faith for anything—they refuse to believe an unseen God, and they despise those who do!

If we are persecuted and mocked for our faith, God says Matthew 5:11 *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.”*

The *living hope* we have is the *living Savior* we trust—the One who paid for our sins so we would *not* be denied access to His kingdom! *No going back* is true in both places!



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