

What Happens After We Die?

(Hebrews 9:27)

The title of this lesson comes from a question that many of the brethren here have asked me over the past few weeks. This question is not unique. A lot of people (both religious and non-religious) ask it. Maybe people ask it because death dwells in the realm of the unknown. No one here has died before (James 2:26). Maybe that is why we are so curious.

According the Bible, there are a few things that we can be certain of when it comes to the questions of, “What happens after we die?”

I. **We continue to exist.**

A. Death is the end for us!

1. There is more to us than this physical body (Ecclesiastes 10:7; Matthew 10:28).
2. Inside this physical container is a soul that will live on after death.

B. This is emphasized throughout the Bible.

1. Jesus taught this to the Sadducees (Matthew 22:29-33).
2. Jesus told the thief that he would be with Him in Paradise (Luke 23:43).
3. Paul viewed death in Christ as gain (Philippians 1:21-24).
4. The rich man, Abraham and Lazarus all continued to exist after death (Luke 16:19-31).

II. **Our souls go to Hades.**

A. This is the unseen world or place where disembodied spirits go after this life.

1. It is where Jesus went for three days (Acts 2:31; John 20:17).
2. Jesus also makes reference to it in Revelation 1:17-18.

B. What do we learn about Hades in Luke 16:19-31?

1. All the **dead** end up here.
2. The dead are **separated** (vs. 26).
3. There is **consciousness** after death.
4. The eternal fate of the dead is **sealed**.

III. **We wait for the judgment day (Hebrews 9:27).**

A. On this day...

1. The Lord will **return** (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Acts 1:9-11).
2. The dead will be **raised** (1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28-29).
3. We will be **judged** (John 12:48; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-33).
4. We will go to **heaven** or **hell** forever (Matthew 25:46).

B. Three important questions:

1. Where do you want to be (Matthew 7:21)?
2. Are you ready to die (James 4:13-17)?
3. How do you view death (Philippians 1:21; Revelation 14:13)?

Conclusion: Praise God that since His Son rose from the dead, we don't have to live in fear of death!