

**CALL to PRAYER** - We do not pray for the dead or to the dead...we pray to God – Trinitarian prayer

**Intro** – I do not know if you have ever been in the room when someone died...it is a somber experience. I've had that unhappy experience a few times and a few months ago I stood before my beloved son Ben when he breathed his last and died. The moment of death brings a very noticeable change to the body. When life leaves the body dies (James 2:26) and you can see it. But when the spirit leaves... what kind of life does the disembodied soul have? We are in a series "*Life, Death, & Life After Death.*" We have noted how we as human beings are made (male or female and in the IOG). God has assembled us as 3 parts woven together into one person – a body braided together with our unique soul (psyche) & immortal spirit. And though we were originally created in a good place & given a good life (an eternal life in our united body, soul & spirit) mankind chose another option. We traded God's good creation for a corrupt creation of our own making (good & evil). We invited evil into our existence and death into our life. This unnatural intruder of death separates what God has joined together in a human being. A terrible divorce happens within a person at the time of death. The immaterial aspect of our humanness (soul & spirit) is ripped away from our material body. We are unraveled at death. The body returns to dust...but what of the immortal spirit? Death does not end life it just changes the connected life to a different & disconnected life...disembodied. Death is not life ceasing; it is life leaving (extinguished/relinquished...annihilation/separation.....Death is a transition to a different kind of life). At the point of physical death, life (soul & spirit) leaves the body... but when the person leaves their body...then what? What kind of life do the dead live? In the verse I am about to read Jesus mentions three very famous people who are dead, but Jesus says that they are very much alive. Never forget that the dead are alive...but what kind of life do they live? Today we begin to tackle what happens immediately after death and what kind of life the disembodied live. But know this...the dead are in fact alive.

## **Matthew 22:32 - Life, Death, & Life after Death (Part 3)**

### **1. Summary Statement & Warning**

- a. *The disembodied have a life of conscious awareness & rational existence. Their continued existence is with their intact & enhanced personality. There is remembrance of the past, awareness of the present & information about the future. The disembodied spirits have feelings & expressions of emotion coupled with information & knowledge. Mind & emotion are active in the psyche of the immortal spirit. All of the dead (both the redeemed & damned) are "gathered to their people." The dead live in a fitting environment (for who they are) during the intermediate state before the resurrection. All of the dead are awaiting a*

*reconnection with their bodies which will enable them to live as a complete human in the eternal state.*

b. Warning

- i. We are **NOT** to go beyond what is written. 1 Cor. 4:6 Prov. 30:5-6 (2 Cor. 12:4)
- ii. Deut. 29:29
  1. Many things about the intermediate & eternal state are kept secret.
  2. God has revealed some things....and these few things are amazing things

**2. Angelic Escort**

- a. What happens the moment of death?
- b. When the spirit leaves the body, the departing spirit is met by an angelic spirit.
  - i. Luke 16:22 the beggar Lazarus had an angelic escort at death
  - ii. He had no funeral procession...but he had an angelic procession (Heb. 1:14)
- c. Jesus doesn't mention an escort for the rich man to Hades (Luke 16:22-23)...but...
- d. Matt. 13:40-42 (Grim Reaper) Matt. 13:49-50
  - i. Angels will escort all to their proper place at the proper time.
  - ii. Angels are the reapers and souls are harvested & gathered to their proper place

**3. Gathered To Their People**

- a. Upon death, the disembodied person (in soul & spirit) is gathered by an angelic spirit and placed with their people – they are assigned to the right place with the right people.
  - i. Believers are "*gathered to their people*" - Gen. 25:8 (Abraham - father of faith)
  - ii. Unbelievers are "*gathered to their people*" - Gen. 25:17 (Ishmael - child of unbelief)
- b. The redeemed have a happy reunion
  - i. Luke 16:22 Abraham's bosom = close to Abraham (place of prominence at party)
  - ii. Luke 16:25 - comforted
  - iii. Matt. 8:11-12 a feast with the people of faith
    1. (check out Isaiah 25:6-9 for the party scene of the redeemed)
- c. The damned will have an unhappy reception
  - i. Isaiah 14:4 - This is a taunt prophetically given to the king of Babylon
  - ii. Isaiah 14:9-11
    1. Death/Sheol is excited to greet the formerly great king

2. The spirits of the damned are roused and they mock the king's loss of glory...his new weakness...common lot with the wicked dead leaders.

- a. Mocked for the exchange of majesty for maggots     Mark 9:47-48

- iii. The unhappy reception comes with a vivid perception

1. Luke 16:23-24     Luke 13:28-29

2. There is a common misperception here that Heaven is boring, and that Hell is party. That misperception will be corrected with a perception at the point of death

- a. The eye of unbelief will see clearly after death     (Psalm 23:5)

- d. Heb. 9:27

- i. Each person is judged /assigned to their proper place and people
- ii. Absent from the body; present with the LORD...or with a horde in Hades.

#### **4. The Believer Will Be With The LORD**

- a. 2 Cor. 5:8

- b. Oh what a day that will be when faith becomes sight!

- i. *"Soon and very soon we are going to see the King..."*

- ii. To see the LORD **there** you need to believe on the LORD **here**

1. But all those believing will be seeing!

- c. Phil. 1:23

- i. The souls in Heaven are said to be *"under the alter"*     Rev. 6:9

- ii. They are *"pillars"* is the temple of God with permanent residence - Rev. 3:12

- iii. The departed souls/saints sit down with Jesus on His throne - Rev. 3:21

- d. Acts 7:54-59

- i. Stephen was a man of faith with eyes of faith

- ii. Stephen got a glimpse of Jesus standing by the throne     Heaven was opened to him

- iii. When Stephen's body was stoned to death... Heaven gladly received his spirit

- iv. Stephen's soul is under the alter... he is a pillar....and sitting with Jesus

To be continued....