

# DETERMINING OUR ETERNAL DESTINY

## Introduction

- 1) **Luke 16:19-22** – The life and death of the poor beggar Lazarus and the rich man
- 2) The circumstances of their deaths likely mirrored the circumstances of their lives
- 3) ***The rich man:***
  - a) Many mourn death
  - b) Elaborate, costly funeral
  - c) Many speak of him in heaven
  - d) Many tributes and wishes to R.I.P
  - e) ***After death:*** Tormented in flame***The beggar Lazarus:***
  - a) Few, if any, mourn death
  - b) Small funeral, if any
  - c) Some hope he is better off
  - d) Quickly forgotten
  - e) ***After death:*** Comforted in Abraham's bosom
- 4) This is how things often happen in this life, but the reality after death can be quite different from what people think it is
  - a) Some think *everyone* will go to heaven (Universalist) – but see Matt. 7:21-23
  - b) Some think *no one* will go to heaven (Atheist) – but see Psa. 14:1; 1 Pet. 1:4
  - c) Some think *most people* will go to heaven (General Public) – but see Matt. 7:13-14
- 5) The truth about our eternal destiny will only be known by consulting the word of the eternal God

## I) Who Determines Our Eternal Destiny?

- A) ***The judgment of God*** (1 Cor. 4:3-4; Jas. 4:12)
- 1) Those who have died now await the final judgment of God (Heb. 9:27)
  - 2) Jesus is the appointed judge (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Tim. 4:1)
  - 3) Will take place on the last day (Jn. 12:48)
  - 4) All mankind is subject to this judgment (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Pet. 4:5)

## II) What is the Basis of Divine Judgment?

- A) ***The revelation of God*** (Psa. 96:13)
- 1) The doctrine of Christ (Jn. 12:48; cf. 2 Jn. 9)
  - 2) The truth (Rom. 2:2; cf. Jn. 17:17)
  - 3) Righteousness (Psa. 89:14; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:5; cf. Jn. 7:24)

## III) What is to be Judged by God?

- A) ***Our lives on earth*** (Eccl. 11:9)
- 1) Every work of man (Eccl. 12:14; Rev. 20:12-13)
  - 2) What we have done whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10)

## IV) Important Factors in God's Judgment

- A) The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23; Jn. 8:24)
- B) The longsuffering of God (2 Pet. 3:9)
- 1) Mercy and grace (Psa. 103:10-11; Eph. 1:7)
- C) God's forgiveness of sins
- 1) Through the blood of Jesus (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
  - 2) Man's faith, repentance, baptism in water (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38)
  - 3) Confession of sin (1 Jn. 1:9)

## Conclusion

God determines our eternal destiny – heaven or hell. He will judge our lives based on His revelation. God does not want you to be lost – He has given His Son for your salvation (Jn. 3:16). Will you be saved today?