

Part 2 - Biblical Proof the Souls of both the Saved and Unsaved are Awake Though Their Bodies are Dead.

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus contains sufficient information to convince us of several truths, including the fact that the doctrine of 'soul sleep' is a fraud and should be exposed for the evil it is.

Although there are some Christians who regard this Scripture as literally true, common sense will admit to no such thing. Those in Hades/Hell cannot communicate with those in Paradise/Heaven. They have neither Internet access, cell phones or the ability to communicate via telepathy. Secondly, souls have neither tongues nor eyes to see that which is in Heaven. Those are organs of the body. The soul has no body.

Jesus wishes to communicate deep and dark spiritual truths to us which no man could know unless revealed by God. He uses a literary device called 'parable' as His teaching tool.

19 *There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:*

20 *And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,*

21 *And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the*

rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Immediately we are introduced to two principal actors who are complete opposites. Purple is a well-known symbol for wealth and status, as reflected in ancient Rome and modern-day Roman Catholicism.

(Lydia of Thyatira was a seller of purple linen. Though she was a woman of wealth, who worshipped God, she was unaware of the saving message of the Gospel. God opened her heart to believe Paul's preaching. Without God's gracious Spirit effectually working internally in a sinner, no man would believe. Sadly, this truth is dismissed as poppycock by much of professing Christendom, who believe they possess the ability to believe.)

The rich man had all the things the world could offer. He even had good health, without which he could not fully enjoy that which money could buy.

At the other extreme end of the spectrum was poor Lazarus, sores and all. The irony of their ultimate destinies is apparent.

Lesson # 1: Appearance is deceiving to the worldly unbeliever, as well as to the carnal, fake, professing Christians. Today it is quite popular to extol the virtues of wealth, preaching wealth as a sign of God's favor and blessing, using Abraham as proof.

Unfortunately, the false Gospel of the Blessing of Wealth Accessed by Faith leads many to the end experienced by the rich man in this parable.

The scriptural warnings to those gathering wealth for wealth's sake are too numerous to list them all. A few will suffice:

But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

You cannot serve both God and money.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God

Consider the plethora of wealthy, tax-free pastors who live lifestyles of the rich and famous, enjoying fame and fortune. I fear for their souls.

In this parable we may extrapolate Lazarus ('God has helped') and the rich man as types of believers and unbelievers. How typical for unbelievers to view true believers as wretched, worthless, deplorables, deserving disdain and disgust, no

matter the outward condition of those preaching God's Word.

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;*

The angels did not carry Lazarus to Hades/Hell. Jesus calls Heaven, 'Abraham's Bosom,' using the phrase as a metaphor all Jews would recognize, for Abraham was their beloved and revered Father of Israel. If anyone was worthy to be with God, it was Abraham. Thus, Jesus is inferring Lazarus, too, was with God.

The rich man, also a Jew, was not with God. He was in Hell.

Lesson # 2: One's carnal birth is insufficient to save, though the children of believing parents. Water baptism, church membership, joining Christian activities, performing Christian good works, keeping the 7th-day Sabbath, etc; are not sufficient to save. One must be baptized by the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 4:4-5](#); [Matthew 3:11](#); [John 3:5](#)). Only God performs this sovereign, miraculous work.

The rich Jewish man did not neglect the outward appearance of keeping the Law. No doubt he did give Lazarus crumbs as he left his estate, not wishing to appear uncaring and dismissive of the beggar. However, his heart was not right with God. Jesus

promises there will be many at the Last Day whose hearts will not be right with God, though they insist Jesus is their Lord ([Matthew 7:21-23](#)). Tragically, their end will be with the rich Jew.

23 *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

24 *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

Lesson # 3: In the mind of the rich Jew, Abraham was his great god. He calls on Abraham, rather than Jehovah. Not that he was clueless about the existence of Jehovah. Rather, it is because Abraham was considered of greater importance than the God of Abraham.

Today we have many heterodox cults which have gods other than the God of Abraham, the Lord Jesus Christ. For example, the 7th-day Adventists have the goddess Ellen White. The Mormons have the god Joseph Smith. The Roman Catholics have the god Pope Francis. They also have the goddess Blessed Virgin Mary, in addition to multitudes of lesser gods, called 'saints.' Without these gods' teachings, salvation would not be possible, they sincerely believe. Lamentably, sincerity does not make for eternal saving truth. The rich man was sincere in his

convictions. He did not gather his wealth by lying. He understood the Law which forbade bearing false witness. Yet Hell was his reward.

And then there are the fervent followers of holy wealth cults which have Joel Osteen, T. D. Jakes, Joyce Meyer, Creflo Dollar, Benny Hinn, and Kenneth Copeland, to name a few who are revered and promoted on the TBN Network. These are the gods who show their deluded followers the way to monetary, worry-free happiness, all in the name of Jesus.

To Be Continued.....