

The Afterlife: Heaven & Hell

October 4 & 5, 2025

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Luke 16:19-26 | ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ ²⁵ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

1. Eternity is **REAL & UNAVOIDABLE**.

2 Corinthians 5:10 | For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ ...

2. Heaven is a **PROMISE**, not a **REWARD**.

Ephesians 2:8-9 | ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

3. Hell is a **CHOICE**, not a **SENTENCE**.

John 3:18-19 | ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Next Step: Choose Your Forever.

2 Corinthians 5:10 | ... so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

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Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. When you hear the word “eternity,” what is the first feeling or image that comes to your mind?
2. Have you ever had a conversation about Heaven or Hell that truly challenged your understanding? If so, what was the biggest challenge?
3. Looking at the world around us, what do you think is the most common misunderstanding people have about what happens after death?

Quick Review:

1. The sermon stated: “Eternity is REAL & UNAVOIDABLE”. What biblical evidence was used to support this claim? How does this concept of unavoidability sit with you?
2. What is the key difference between Heaven being a “PROMISE” and it being a “REWARD,” according to the message?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read **Romans 2:6–8**.

Romans 2:6–8 | ⁶ God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

This passage connects our persistence in action with our pursuit of eternity. What practical choices in your life right now would qualify as “persistence in doing good” or, conversely, “reject[ing] the truth and obey[ing] wickedness?” What does it mean to “seek glory, honor and immortality” through good deeds, and how is this different from trying to earn salvation?

2. Read **1 Peter 1:3–5**.

1 Peter 1:3–5 | ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

In what specific ways does fixing your hope on a “living hope” (v. 3) change your emotional response to loss, failure, or suffering in this life? The passage speaks of an eternal inheritance that is “kept in heaven for you.” How does the certainty and security of this promise influence your ability to live generously and fearlessly on earth?

Putting It Into Practice:

1. The message’s next step was to “Choose Your Forever.” If you were to advise a friend on how to practically and actively choose their forever today, what steps would you suggest they take?
2. If you truly believe Heaven is real and Hell is real, how should that belief affect the way you share the Gospel with your family, neighbors, or colleagues this week?
3. Personal Challenge: What is one area of your life (time, money, relationships) that you need to adjust or refocus because of the reality of eternity?