

One Moment After Death

by Wayne Goff

“Where will you be in one moment after death?” Do you ever stop to think about it? Most people put such thoughts out of their mind because they are morbid -- morbid being described as an unhealthy or abnormal interest in disturbing subjects like sickness and death. And in fact, I do not believe that you and I can spend all of our time dwelling on the subject and be fruitful in our daily lives. But I do believe that we must think about it.

Some will answer that one moment after death we cease to exist. They accept the philosophy of the ancient Sadducees who denied angels, spirits, etc. Others will say that we are instantly in a state of bliss with whomever we believe to be “God.” Even the apostle Paul declared that those of us who dwell in these mortal bodies desire to be further clothed upon that we might live eternally (2 Cor. 5:4).

The most definitive answer is found in Luke 16 in the Lord’s discussion of the rich man (sinner) and Lazarus (righteous). The beggar Lazarus died “...and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom” (v. 22). “The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes...” (vv. 22-23). No mention as to time, space, or known location other than a place and time in another realm. But both him consciously exist after death. Both have minds and memories. One is in a state of bliss; the other in a state of torment. Neither was able to control his destiny after death.

Hebrews 9:27 simply states “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Eternal judgment before God takes place after death. Until then both the righteous dead and the wicked dead are in the realm called “Hades.” It is absolutely important that we think now about where we will be one moment after death because it will be too late to think about it then. Now you can do something about it; then you will be subject to God’s absolute control.

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