

The Robison Reminder

Robison Street church of Christ
Edna, Texas

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Where Does the Soul Go After Death?

by Steven F. Deaton

Our question assumes a few things. First, man has a soul. This is contrary to the belief of the “Jehovah’s Witnesses,” Seventh Day Adventists, Atheists and others. However, the Bible teaches man has a spirit or soul (1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Cor. 4:16). Second, the soul lives beyond this life. Jesus affirmed this when the Sadducees questioned Him on it (Matt. 22:23-33). Third, man dies. There is no escaping this (Heb. 9:27). So, where does the soul go after death?

Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, “*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.*” Some believe this teaches that the soul goes to heaven to dwell with God until the resurrection. However, this cannot be the meaning. All bodies do return to the dust, but not all men go to heaven (Matt. 7:13-14). Rather, while in the body man has control over his spirit, where it goes, what it does, but after death, that control is lost. Where the spirit goes after death is controlled by God.

Further investigation reveals that spirits are sent to one of two places, Abraham’s bosom or torments (Luke 16:19-31). The righteous go to Abraham’s bosom (paradise) and the unrighteous go to torments. This is in the realm called Hades, where a great, impassable gulf separates paradise

and torments (Luke 16:26). Hades is the realm of the dead that will not be destroyed until the judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). Therefore, all spirits are sent into the Hadean realm to await the final judgment.

Some wonder what Paul meant when he wrote, “*For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus*” (1 Thess. 4:14). This is teaching that the dead will return at the same time Christ returns. They must, because when He returns the resurrection will take place (John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:21-26). Thus, He will “*bring with Him*” those who are in the Hadean realm.

Where a man goes after his death depends on what he did or failed to do in his life (e.g. the rich man and Lazarus). When he dies, God will place his spirit in the appropriate place to await judgment – whether by angels in paradise or by some other means to torments. After our death, we will know where we are, but those left behind will not. They can have hope and confidence, but they cannot change it (cf. 1 Thess. 4:13). Once we are there, we cannot change it either. Therefore, we must obey God here and now (Rom. 13:11-14).

- *The Gospel Teacher*, 2/2/03

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Mark Mayberry
from Alvin, TX, begins next week! March 7-12

- A Special Study on Last Things -

Sunday - 9:30	The Last Days
Sunday - 10:30	The Kingdom of God
Sunday - 6:00	The Battle of Armageddon
Monday - 7:00	The Folly of Date Setting
Tuesday - 7:00	The AD 70 Doctrine
Wednesday - 7:00	Where Are the Dead?
Thursday - 7:00	Hell - Air Conditioned or Not?
Friday - 7:00	Heaven - Real or Imagined?

Why I Believe In Heaven

by Heath Rogers

Do you believe in Heaven? I do. Why? I believe in Heaven because I want to believe in Heaven. It is paradise; the hope and goal of my faith. However, it takes more than just wanting to believe in something to make it true. Heaven is not a fairy tale, a relic of ancient religious folklore. It is real. I believe in Heaven for the following reasons:

Because I believe in God. God created all things, including Heaven (Gen. 1:1). Heaven is the abode of God. *“The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD’s throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men”* (Ps. 11:4). If I believe in God, I must believe in Heaven. God created it, and He dwells there.

Because I believe in Jesus. Jesus came to bear witness of the truth (John 18:37). Thus, everything Jesus told us is the truth. On one occasion, Jesus assured His disciples that Heaven was real and was waiting for them. *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also”* (John 14:1-3). When Jesus left this world, He ascended into Heaven and sat down on the right hand of God (Mark 16:19). If I believe in Jesus, I must believe in Heaven. He spoke the

truth when He spoke about Heaven, and He is there now.

Because I believe in the Bible. *“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever”* (Ps. 119:160). Every word in the Bible is the truth. This means we can trust everything that the Bible says. Heaven is a doctrine of the Bible, so I believe in Heaven.

Because I believe in Hell. Jesus spoke of Hell more than anyone else in the Bible. Hell exists because God’s righteousness demands that evil and sin be punished. If evil has a punishment, then righteousness has a reward. Heaven is the exact opposite of Hell. Heaven is the realization of man’s existence the way God intended for it to be in the beginning. Everything that was lost in the Garden of Eden as a result of man’s sin is regained in Heaven (Rev. 22:1-5). I believe in Heaven because I believe in Hell. The same God, Savior, and Bible proclaim both.

Do you believe in Heaven? Do you want to go there? You can! Jesus is the way to Heaven (John 14:6). He is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). Why not obey the gospel today and make Heaven your eternal home?

**Heaven is a prepared place
for a prepared people.**

News and Notes



Steve Wilson has been moved to Methodist Hospital in San Antonio. He is in room 334. His doctor has inserted a feeding tube which will bypass his stomach, allowing nutrients to be absorbed directly by the small intestine. This will promote the healing process, with the hopes of avoiding surgery. His doctors have said that it is best to allow the pancreas to heal on its own. We understand that some brethren in the San Antonio area have been checking in on Steve and Juanita, for which we are thankful.

Steve can receive cards and notes at the following address:

Steve Wilson room 332
Methodist Hospital
7700 Floyd Curl
San Antonio, TX 78229

Keep our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.

Stonewall Jackson, Wayne Johnson, Addie Lawrence, Curtis Nordin, Tommy Smith, Jason Thompson, Herman Villarreal and Marie Wilkerson.

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website
www.ykc.com/cofc/

Times of Services
- Sunday -
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning 10:30 AM
Evening 6:00 PM
- Wednesday -
Bible Study 7:30 PM

elders:
Sherrel Mercer - 782-5678
Steve Wilson - 782-2274
evangelist, editor:
Heath Rogers - 782-2844