

WHAT HAPPENS ONE MINUTE AFTER YOU DIE?

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Everyone will die and enter the afterlife. We decide in this life where we will spend the afterlife: if you are a believer in Jesus, you go to Heaven; if you reject His offer, you send yourself to Hell. The gospel is a universal declaration that Hell is not God's desire for anyone.

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Greg explained, "Death is not a distant reality; it's a daily certainty for every human being." In what ways does our society avoid thinking about death?

**What should we learn from the certainty of death (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; Psalm 90:12)?
What is the Christian's hope (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23)?**

READ LUKE 16:19-31

UNDERSTANDING

Describe the contrast between the rich man and Lazarus (v. 19-23). Why was this story surprising to Jesus' audience, and for us today?

What was the rich man's sin? How did this prevent him from seeing his spiritual condition and the needs of others?

In what way is sin pleasurable for a season? How should an eternal perspective shape the way we fight against sin (Hebrews 9:27; 11:24-26)?

Pastor Greg explained that Jesus teaches us three things about Hell in this passage:

***People in Hell suffer (v.24-25).* How does the rich man's experience reveal that purgatory, soul sleep, and reincarnation are unbiblical?**

***Once you enter the afterlife, you cannot change your location (v.26).* There are no chances after death, but millions before. Why does the rich man want to warn others?**

***In the afterlife, you are conscious and fully aware of where you are (v.27-28).* How do people minimize the reality of Hell, and why are they wrong?**

What warning has God provided (v.29-30)? What does this reveal about the purpose and power of God's Word?

APPLICATION

If we really love people, we need to tell the truth about eternity. Why are Christians often reluctant to mention Hell out of fear that they might offend someone? How did this message convict you to have an eternal perspective—to know and share God's Word (Jude 1:22-23)?

In what way is the gospel a universal declaration that Hell is not God's desire for anyone (John 3:16-17)? How does the bad news of judgment provide context for the good news of forgiveness?

Share how would you respond to the objection, "How could a God of love send people to Hell?" How does Hell reveal the love and justice of God?

Pastor Greg explained, "The road to Hell is paved with excuses. Hell is therefore a prison in which the doors are first locked on the inside by us and therefore locked from the outside by God." How have you learned to share the gospel with those who overlook their sin and need for a Savior?

PRAYER

Thank God for His righteous judgment and saving grace. Pray for those who do not know God and ask for boldness and tact to share His message. Pray for an eternal perspective in anticipation of your future reality as a believer—to be in God's presence, one minute after death (Psalm 16:11).