

Sermon Discussion Questions

Then What?

April 8, 2018

1. The fictitious story of Ethan Goodwin will be told throughout this series. This week we heard about him dying. How did that grab your attention? When you think of dying what is your primary emotion and why (sad, scared, excited, uncertain, etc.)?
2. When Jeremy said we should set our minds on things eternal for our citizenship is in heaven (Colossians 3:1-2; Philippians 3:20-21), how does that show up in our lives in real practical ways?
3. Read Philippians 1:21-26 and see if you can see what benefit there was for Paul to die. And what benefit was there for Paul to not die? What application can we draw from this?
4. This is kind of gloomy but read some of these passages on “Sheol” and “Hades” and try and get a picture of what happens to those who die away from the Lord: In the Old Testament the word is “Sheol.” It means “the grave” -- Genesis 37:34-35; 42:38; Numbers 16:30, 33; 2 Samuel 22:6; 1 Kings 2:6, 9; Job 24:19; Psalm 6:5; 9:17; 18:5; 31:17; 116:3; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10; Isaiah 38:10, 17-18). In the New Testament the word is “Hades” – “the place of the dead.” -- Luke 16:23; Revelation 6:8; 20:13 (there are seven other passages that mention “Hades” in the New Testament).
 - a. How do these passages hit you emotionally? How do they motivate you?
5. Jeremy mentioned that he has read many books where people tell of their near-death experiences, or their going to heaven. Have you read any of those books? How much stock should we put in these accounts? How do they motivate you (if at all)?
6. Luke 16:19-31 is a key passage where Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Read through it and talk about how it tells us a bit about heaven and how we get there; as well as Hades and what it is like, etc.
7. Jeremy mentioned there are these angel s(or an angel) that bring us to heaven and he quoted Psalm 91:11-12. Do you remember another time those verses were quoted (see Matthew 4:5-7)? Also, Jeremy mentioned Elijah being taken to heaven (2 Kings 2:9-11). Elijah is seen again after that moment (Matthew 17:1-3). What could these passages reveal about our eternal lives?
 - a. In Matthew 18:10 what does it say about angels and children? What could we speculate regarding angels based on these passages?
8. Finally, Jeremy highlighted John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 (cf. 1 Timothy 2:3-6). Given the truth of those passages, who do you know needs to put their trust in Jesus to give them the gift of eternal life?