

Speaker: Stuart McGahie
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Readings: Luke 16:19-31

The background to this is in verse two, “[Give an account of thy stewardship](#)”

All that we have has come from God. God is the creator God. In six days of creation God spoke and the worlds came into being. “[God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life](#)” (Genesis 2:7); “[God saw that it was good](#)” (Genesis 1:4,12,18,21,25). God put man and woman in the perfect garden with only one commandment – of one tree thou shalt not eat. Adam sinned and sin came into the world (Romans 5:12).

There is coming a day when we will all stand before God and give an account (Romans 14:12).

The rich man dressed well, ate well and had the beggar at the gate. When death came he found himself in hell because, as a sinner, he was found wanting.

You may ask, What is sin? It is any of the things that we do that are wrong.

The Lord was asked, “which *is* the great commandment in the law?” (Matt 22:36). His answer was, “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matt 22:37).

The rich man committed the sin of omission: He did not put God first. He ignored the beggar, he had nothing to do with him, he fell short of God's standard.

Lazarus had a difficult life: he did not have food, clothes and friendship. He had no strength or money to help himself.

He is taken to heaven. We may ask, what made him deserve heaven? The simple answer is, nothing.

Sin makes us helpless before God; where there is sin in the life we cannot be right with God.

There is another man – the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ – He was the perfect man. He brought glory and delight to God.

Because He was God, He was willing to go to the cross and able to take the punishment for others.

“[The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord](#)” (Rom 6:23).

The Lord Jesus did not deserve to die, He said “[I have the power to lay down my life and take it up again](#)” (John 10:18). “[He bearing His cross went forth](#)” (John 19:17).

As God, the Lord Jesus Christ “[cannot lie](#)” (Titus 1:2). When He speaks it must come to pass.

“[He was led as a lamb to the slaughter and a sheep before her shearers is dumb so He openeth not His mouth](#)” (Isa 53:7). Peter takes this idea and states, “[When he was reviled, He reviled not again](#)” (1 Peter 2:23).

After men had done their worst He cried “[finished](#)” - the price was paid and the Holy God was satisfied. In the 3 hours of darkness the punishment for sin was laid on Him. The fact that He is raised from the dead is proof that God is satisfied. Death could not hold Him.

The blessed hope and prospect for the believer is “to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:8)

At the end of time a great white throne will be set up “dead small and great shall stand before God” “books will be opened” “those whose names are not found written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire(a place of eternal separation from God)” (Rev 20:11-15), but angels in heaven rejoice as a soul is saved, Luke 15:7,10).

You have the opportunity now to get your name written in heaven. “behold now is the accepted time behold now is the day of salvation”(2 Cor 6:2). We can only promise you now.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved”(Acts 16:31)