**If I Should Die Before I Wake**

**The Intermediate State**

**Week 3**

*The temporary cessation of bodily life and the separation of body from soul between death and the final resurrection*

*Just and the Unjust…Temporary…Conscious*

The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus **(Lk. 16: 19-31)**

1. **What Happens When People Die?**
2. Souls of unbelievers go to eternal punishment **(v. 22-24, 28)**
3. No second chances
4. Hb. 9:27 *“it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement”*
5. Mt. 25:46 *“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life”*
6. No seances **(v. 26-27, 30)**
7. 1 Sm. 28: 3-25 = Saul and the medium of En-dor
8. No annihilationism (cease to exist) **(v. 23)**

**1**.Rev. 14:11 *“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night”*

**2**. Mt. 25:41 “*Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire*”

1. Souls of believers go to eternal blessing **(v. 22, 25)**
2. With Christ: (1) fellowship with unsinning hearts, (2) intensified joy, (3) increased knowledge
3. Phil. 1:23 *“My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.”*
4. 2.Cor. 5: 8 *“we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”*
5. Presence with Christ eliminates all other options
6. No limbo (limbus partum) = O.T. believers go to place of limbo (unconsciousness) to await Christ’s resurrection **(v. 22)**
7. Gn. 5:24 *“Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”*
8. Mt. 17:3 *“And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him.”* (Mount of Transfiguration is pre-resurrection)
9. No purgatory = place of further preparatory purification
10. Hb. 9:27 *“it is appointed for man once to die, and after that comes the judgement”*
11. No soul sleep = a state of unconscious existence (“sleep” is a metaphor for death)
12. Jn. 11:11 *“Lazarus has fallen asleep”*
13. No prayer *to* or *for* the dead **(v. 27-29)**
14. **Before Death Matters**
15. Divine evaluation **(v.25, 29)**
16. Hardness of heart **(v.29)**
17. Life regulated by Scripture **(v. 29)**