

Elders:

Rufus Barfield * Donnie McDaniel

Deacons:

Paul Byas * Antoine Holloway * Michael Myrick * Sheldon Smith

Evangelist:

Antoine Holloway

Worship Times:

Sunday Bible Study/9:30AM Sunday Morning Worship/10:30AM
Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

Meetings:

Monday Sermon Recap

December 13th @ 7:00pm

Discipleship Class

December 18th @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

January 2nd @ 5:00pm

2011 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jim Jonas of Centreville, Virginia

April 7th-10, 2011

2011 Vacation Bible School

June 20th-24th, 2011

2011 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Mark Russell of Valparaiso, Indiana

October 6th-9th, 2011

Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)

Rudale Blake * Andrew Madison * Ann Wise * Lewis Wise

Prayer Requests

- David Ashabranner is relocating to Hawaii in January 2011.

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Steven Chung * Angelita Dillon * John Okonkwo

Prayer Request (Traveling)

Bruce McDonald * Monica Barbour * Tina Okonkwo

Additional Announcements

- Adult Class for 2011 1st Quarter are: **Sunday Morning Upstairs** – The Book Of Romans; **Sunday Morning Downstairs** – A Study Of Authority (The Whole Year); **Wednesday Evening Upstairs** – Answering Religious Error; **Wednesday Evening Downstairs** – The Christian's Attitude (The First 3 Quarters Of The Year).

Contribution & Attendance Figures

December 5th \$3,865-Contribution 87-Attendance
November 28th \$2,446-Contribution 89-Attendance

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear The Gospel * Believe In Jesus * Repent Of Our Sins * Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God * Be Baptized In Water * Remain Faithful

TODAY'S DATE: December 12, 2010

**Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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Updated Every Monday & Thursday

A GOING CHURCH FOR A COMING LORD – ROMANS 16:16

The First 5 Minutes After Death

Scriptural Text: Luke 16:19-31

Is This A Parable?

What is a parable? A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. There is much debate about whether this is a parable or not because throughout the New Testament, our Lord never used names in such stories. However, in this story, names are given. The name Lazarus was given. We cannot be sure if this was the same Lazarus, who was a friend of Jesus & a brother to Mary & Martha. Nevertheless, there is nothing about the Lazarus we read about in **John 11** to indicate he was poor, needy, destitute, & lacking resources. It might be possible the name Lazarus was given in this text because Lazarus means, “God is the helper” or “God has helped. This is another reason why history has given the rich man the name of Dives, for Dives means “rich man” in Latin. Whether the rich man or Lazarus were real people or not, we know Moses is real & his name was given. We know Abraham is real & his name was given. We know hell is real & this is where the rich man went in this story. Whether this is a parable or not does not matter. If it is a parable, then it gives us imaginary of the “here after.” If it is not a parable, then it is an actual story & we need to prepare ourselves to reach Abraham’s bosom & avoid hell.

Don’t Miss The Point

The rich man did not go to hell because he was rich, nor did Lazarus go to Abraham’s bosom because he was poor. Financial status does not determine our eternal destiny, but whether we have the right relationship with Jesus or not does.

The character of the rich man was wicked. He was not wicked in the sense of the Bible exposing specifically any glaring sins he may have been guilty of, but rather he failed to realize he was a steward of God. God blessed him, so he can in turn bless others. He had both the wealth & the influence (for wealthy people are influential people), which could have &

should have been used for the glory of God, the spiritual edification of brethren, & material benefits for his neighbors. It was not the rich man’s lack of benevolence to Lazarus of which he was condemned. The rich man was not a tyrant, an oppressor of the poor, notoriously selfish, or uncharitable, for if he had been any of these things, then Lazarus would not have been permitted to lie at the rich man’s gate daily beseeching alms. The rich man went to hell because he did not trust in God for his help, but Lazarus went to Abraham’s bosom because he lived his name.

What Happens The First 5 Minutes After Death?

At the point of death, our bodies begin to return to the dust of the ground because God’s breath is returned to Him, which we have borrowed in order to live in this body (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). Our soul goes to Hades. The Hadean world is divided into Abraham’s bosom & hell. In the story, Abraham’s bosom is symbolic of “Paradise” (**Luke 23:43**) & hell is symbolic of “Tartarus” (**2 Peter 2:4**). Paradise is where the righteous go when they die. Tartarus is where the wicked go when they die. What are these souls doing in the Hadean world? They are all waiting for the Day of Judgment (**Hebrews 9:27**). On this day, the righteous will leave Paradise & go to Heaven for all eternity, but the wicked will leave Tartarus & go to Hell Fire for all eternity.

The Purpose Of The Parable

- We cannot serve two masters. We will either trust God or trust gold. Lazarus trusted God & the rich man trusted gold.
- What goes around comes around. On earth, Lazarus begged for crumbs from the rich man’s table, but in Hades, the rich man is begging for a drop of water from the finger of Lazarus.
- The Scriptures are the only message we will hear to make a wise-hearted decision. Either we are going to believe them or not.

Where will our souls go the first 5 minutes after death?

-Antoine N. Holloway