

**Life After Death**

**Lesson Number 15**

**Hebrews 6:1-3 (KJV)**

1Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3And this will we do, if God permit.

What happens when we die? Is that the end? Do we just “cease to exist?”

I’m sure many of you have heard stories of people who have had “near death” experiences or even those who say they have died and then came back to life.

**While these stories can be exciting and encouraging to our faith, we must put our faith in the Word of God, not in someone else’s experience!**

**Luke 16:8b (NLT)**

And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.

The King James Version says, **“for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.”**

“The Boy Who Came back from Heaven” is one of a trifecta of books sold by Lifeway Publishing. It is part of this series of books on “Heavenly tourism.” The other two books are “90 Minutes in Heaven” and “Heaven is for Real.” The latter was made into a movie and I know many of you have seen it.

Alex Malarkey, the boy who is the subject of the book, “The Boy Who Came back from Heaven” wrote an open letter concerning the book.

“An Open Letter to Lifeway and Other Sellers, Buyers, and Marketers of Heaven Tourism, by the Boy Who Did Not Come Back From Heaven.”

*Please forgive the brevity, but because of my limitations I have to keep this short.*

*I did not die. I did not go to Heaven.*

*I said I went to heaven because I thought it would get me attention. When I made the claims that I did, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough. The Bible is the only source of truth. Anything written by man cannot be infallible.*

*It is only through repentance of your sins and a belief in Jesus as the Son of God, who died for your sins (even though he committed none of his own) so that you can be forgiven may you learn of Heaven outside of what is written in the Bible…not by reading a work of man. I want the whole world to know that the Bible is sufficient. Those who market these materials must be called to repent and hold the Bible as enough.*

*In Christ,*

*Alex Malarkey.”*

Why do I bring this up? Because too many Christians believe other people’s experiences or what other people say MORE than they believe the Bible!

It is okay to hear these things and to be encouraged by them but how much time are you spending in the Bible for yourself?

Anytime you hear someone preach or teach, how do you know what they are saying is true or not?

How do you know if what Pastor David says is true or not? How do you know if what I am saying is true or not?

YOU MUST GET INTO THE WORD OF GOD FOR YOURSELF! Especially in these last days. The world is FULL of deceivers who have come in the name of Christ. Many of them are sincere but they are sincerely deceived!

**2 Timothy 3:1-5 (KJV)**

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**2 Timothy 3:10-17 (KJV)**

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, **knowing of whom thou hast learned *them***; 15 And that from a child **thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
17That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Paul is warning Timothy about what the last days will be like.

Something important to note is Paul reminds Timothy of how he has known Paul.

Paul was Timothy’s pastor, his spiritual mentor.

**You need a Pastor, a spiritual mentor!**

There are a lot of benefits to a megachurch but one of the drawbacks is not being able to really KNOW your pastor and to have the relationship with him that you need!

Pastor David will be the first to tell you, if you come to this church and you can only go to the large service or to a life group, he will tell you to go to a life group!

Why? The Life Group IS your church! They are the ones that will be there for you when you need support!

Not only are you to have a spiritual leader but you also need to KNOW the Word of God and have it deep inside your spirit!

No one can get the Word inside of you, other than you!

As I was preparing for this lesson, I listened to a woman on Youtube giving her testimony about how she had contacted pneumonia and subsequently she died.

She talked about her experience of seeing heave and also, hell. She stated that hell was not made for man but for Satan and “one third of the angels that fell.” Quite frequently I hear people talk about one third of the angels falling with Lucifer when he fell. Unfortunately, that is tradition that is being passed around in the church that is absolutely not true!

These ministers are very sincere when they preach but they are SINCERELY WRONG about one third of the angels falling with Lucifer!

Hell was created for Satan and his angels, not for man. That part of what she said is correct.

**Matthew 25:41 (KJV)**

41Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

The Bible tells us in Revelation chapter 12 that one third of the angels WILL fall and this is in addition to those who already fell with Lucifer and we see them in Genesis chapter 5, having offspring with natural born women in order to try and cut off the Godly bloodline that Christ would come through.

If you have noticed, I give a lot of scripture to back up what I teach. I like that you can stop me at any time and ask me to back up what I am teaching with the Word of God. Sometimes in church services, the people are not allowed to interrupt and they don’t always have the ability to question what the minister is saying.

**Why is it important to be such a stickler for God’s Word?**

**Mark 7:13 (ESV)**

Thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

Every time we pass along “man’s tradition” rather than the Word of God, it makes God’s Word a little bit weaker!

This is just one of the many traditions that are passed along by preachers who are WRONG and who are DECEIVED! There are many, many things like this that are passed along! Paul’s thorn in the flesh is another example of “man’s tradition.” Preachers say Paul had some kind of eye disease or some kind of sickness and that was his “thorn in the flesh.” All you have to do is read what Paul said his thorn was and he tells you exactly what it was. It was NOT sickness or disease!

[Click here to read about Paul’s thorn.](http://www.jaymc.com/FOF/thorn.htm)

**What happens when we die?**

We must first realize that we are a **SPIRIT**, we have a **SOUL** our spirit and soul live in a **BODY**.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)**
23  And the very God of peace sanctify you **wholly**; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Spirit – Pneuma – A current of air like a breathe or a breeze. Life.

Soul – Psuche – The rational immortal soul.

Body – Soma

Your SPIRIT is the real you! Your SOUL is the seat of your emotions, your will and your intellect. Your soul is where you do all your thinking and scheming. It is where the battle rages between doing what God would have you do (or not do) and what your flesh would do (or not do).

Your body is where your spirit and soul dwell. It is your “Earth suit” much like astronauts must have a space suit to survive in the rigors of space, you must have your Earth suit for your spirit and soul to be able to live on this earth.

**2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (NLT)**

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. 2We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. 3For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. 4While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it’s not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. 5God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

6So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. 7For we live by believing and not by seeing. 8Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. 10For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

**2 Corinthians 5:8 (KJV)**

We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

In other words, **“To be absent from this body, is to be present with the Lord!”**

If you are a Christian, when you die, you will be in the presence of the Lord, INSTANTLY! No purgatory, no waiting around, you will be with Jesus!

**Philippians 1:21-26 (KJV)**

For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you. 25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;
26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

**Luke 16:19-31 (KJV)**

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

This is a true story about three men, the rich man, Lazarus and Abraham.

This is what happened before Jesus died and was resurrected. When Jesus died, He went into hell and proclaimed the Gospel to the fallen angels who were held in a place called Tartatus.

When Jesus ascended, He “led captivity captive” and took all of the Old Testament saints out of Abraham’s Bosom and into Heaven. Now, when a Believer dies, they immediately go to Heaven.

**Psalm 16:10 (KJV)**

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

**1 Peter 3:18-20 (KJV)**

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

**2 Peter 2:1-4 (KJV)**

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but **cast *them* down to hell**, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

**V.4 is “tartarus” in the Greek. It is a place that only fallen angels are sentenced to. No man ever goes this far deep in Hell.**

**Ephesians 4:8-16 (KJV)**

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.



**What About Those Who Die Who Are Not Saved?**

**Matthew 22:1-14 (KJV)**

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,
2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*. 7 But when the king heard *thereof*, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and **cast *him* into outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

One night, after working until 11pm, I had gone home and I was “wound up” and I could not sleep. I was enrolled in seminary at that time so while the rest of my family was asleep, I began to study. Finally, I went to bed. As I was laying there trying to sleep, I slipped off into a trance or I had a vision. I’m not really sure what exactly it was. But what I saw was very tangible. It was a real place but it was completely black, void and empty yet it was real, a real place. I could hear people’s voices, “weeping and gnashing of teeth” just like Jesus said. My first thought was that this was spiritual and I cried out and said “Lord!” Then a voice said, “No! This is not God, God does not torment His children!” At that, I began to pray in the Spirit and I soon fell quickly asleep.

Was this a vision of Hell? Was it a vision of “Outer Darkness?” Is there a difference between the two? I simply do not know but what I saw was a very real place! The voices I heard were very real but I never saw any faces.

I can assure you though, people who have not accepted Christ as their Savior will NOT go to Heaven when they die.

We are all born into sin and when we reach the age of accountability, we are held accountable for our own sins! Unless we rely on Jesus’ blood to remove those sins, we will suffer the cost. We CANNOT go to Heaven by being good enough or by doing anything else. We can ONLY BELIEVE!

Great Cloud of Witnesses

**Hebrews 12:1-5 (NLT)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **2**We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.**3**Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up. **4**After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. **5**And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said,

Some people believe that those who have gone on to Heaven, watch us, almost like from a great arena. They believe they watch what we do spiritually and that Paul is saying we should walk free from sin since these people are watching us.

It could also just be that it is talking about large number of Christian witnesses we have on this earth. We do need to be good witnesses to other Christians that we come in contact with.

**What Will We be Like in the Resurrection, When Jesus Returns**

**1 John 3:2-3 (NLT)**

Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. **3**And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

I remember, as a young child asking my mother what heaven would be like. She thought things wouldn’t be as clear as they are here. If anything it will be much more clear and much more real than this world is. THIS world is temporal, NOT heaven!

**Scriptures About Life After Death**

**John 11:25** - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

**John 5:24** - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

**Luke 23:43** - And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

**John 3:16** - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Matthew 10:28** - And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-57** - Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,   [(Read More...)](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-15-51_15-57/)

**John 16:22** - And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

**Philippians 3:20-21** - For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:   [(Read More...)](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Philippians-3-20_3-21/)

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** - But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.   [(Read More...)](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Thessalonians-4-13_4-18/)

**Hebrews 9:27** - And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

**Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**2 Corinthians 5:8** - We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

**John 14:6** - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**Proverbs 12:28** - In the way of righteousness [is] life; and [in] the pathway [thereof there is] no death.

**Romans 10:9-13** - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.   [(Read More...)](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-10-9_10-13/)

**Acts 24:15** - And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

**Revelation 20:1-15** - And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.   [(Read More...)](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Revelation-20-1_20-15/)

**John 5:28-29** - Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,   [(Read More...)](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-5-28_5-29/)

**John 14:1-31** - Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.   [(Read More...)](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-14-1_14-31/)