



Ask the Preacher Night

Kevin L. Ziegler, Evangelist
South Side Church of Christ
<http://southside.restorationplea.com>
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March 26, 2006 – PM Service

Question #1 – What and where is paradise and does it exist today?

Paradise is in the abode of the dead, which is in Hades, which does exist today.

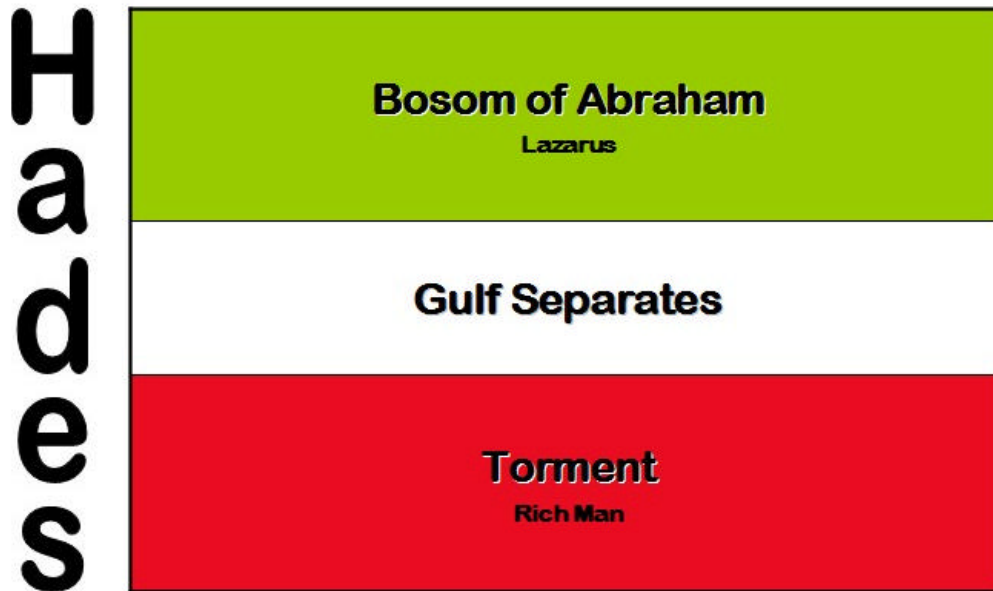
Luke 23:43 – Today you will be with me in paradise

Luke 16:19-31 gives us one of the only views into this question.

When a man dies, he goes to Hades (the abode of the dead).

The abode of the dead is made up of three parts, according to the parable. There is “Abraham’s bosom” or paradise. There is a gulf that spans in the middle. And there is torment. The rich man, in torment, could see Abraham and Lazarus in paradise. The rich man talked with Abraham and Abraham talked with the rich man.

Hades – Abode of the Dead



From Luke 16:19-31

The dead in Christ will rise first when Jesus returns. - I Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Thief on the Cross was never baptized: The thief lived under the Old Covenant. The terms of the New Covenant were not given until Acts 2.

Jesus had the authority (and still does) to forgive anyone He desires.

He did so during His life on earth: Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5-11; Luke 7:47.

In the Church, with the New Covenant, has new terms. It is the terms of the New Covenant we must meet in order to have salvation. The thief lived (and died) under the Old.



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Question #2 – Is God a boy or a girl?

God is **ALWAYS** masculine in the Scriptures. *HE, HIS, HIM, ALWAYS masculine. FATHER, never mother . . . always masculine.*

Genesis 1:27 – “God created man in **His** own image, in the image of God **He** created him; male and female **He** created them”.

Question #3 – Consider the monks, nuns, etc. They devote their lives to pray and practice, but do not live their lives. Will their reward be in heaven?

Consider Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:27-28)

- *In Jerusalem worshipping God*
- *Reading his Bible*

Consider Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:9-11; Galatians 1:14)

- *Fasting for three days*
- *Praying*
- *Advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen*
- *More extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions*

Consider Cornelius (Acts 10:2)

- *Devout man*
- *Feared God*
- *Gave many alms to the Jewish people*
- *Prayed to God continually*

Consider Apollos (Acts 18:24-25)

- *Eloquent man*
- *Mighty in the Scriptures*
- *Instructed in the way of the Lord*
- *Fervent in spirit*
- *Speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus*
- *Acquainted only with the baptism of John*

Consider the twelve disciples of John the Immerser (Acts 19:1-7)

- *They had repented*
- *They had been immersed*

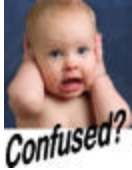
The **ONLY** authority we have is the Gospel.

God can save who He wants. He is God! But, **IF** God decides to save someone who has not followed His plan, what does that do with any other promise or word spoken in the Word?

“He that believes and is immersed shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).

“Repent and be immersed every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

IF someone can be saved without the message of the Gospel, because they haven't believed it properly, then why tell them any differently? Why plead with people to follow the Bible and the Bible only? Why plead for the ancient order of things? Let people believe what they want to believe and God will save them based on their “devotion” and not on obedience to the terms of pardon given in Scripture.



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The ONLY message that leads unto salvation, is the Gospel, is the preaching of Jesus, is faith, repentance, confession, baptism for the remission of sins, and faithful living. Anyone, **in my opinion**, is to be treated as one who needs to be converted who has not followed this plan.

Question #4 – Discuss destroying whole cities and nations for sin, even innocent children and babies?

Tough question – but I believe there is an answer. God allowed people time to repent. When they did not, the only action was to do away with them. When it involved a nation – to keep His own people pure, God had them destroy everything.

Noah and his family are the only ones saved (Genesis 6:5-7)

Sodom and Gomorrah completely destroyed (Genesis 18:20)

Amalekites (I Samuel 15:2-3)

The Amalek people had over 400 years to repent!

Dr. Winter writes, *“It is an eternal principle that any nation who falls to the depths in which Amalek was wallowing must perish before a people who are roused by a vision of a higher destiny. To allow even the women to continue in such a life would not be mercy. Infants growing up in such a society would have no hope beyond that of a reprobate. God was attempting to work an act of mercy through the sword of Saul”.*

Bible Study Textbook Series: Studies in Samuel, Willard W. Winter, College Press, 1967, page 180.