

THE STATE OF MAN

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the living will determine where they will be after death by the life they are now living.
2. Job. 14:14 "If a Man die shall he live again?" Ps. 89:48 "What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah."
3. We have many questions about life here and especially life hereafter:
 - a. We cannot answer all the questions
 - b. But we can learn what God has revealed to us.
 - c. Luke 16:19-31 - tells about life on earth and then some about what happens after death
4. We could call this lesson "Our Journey to Eternity"

Discussion

I. LIFE ON EARTH - Kingdom of Nature

A. Born innocent

1. Sinless - a child is not lost because it cannot sin
 - a. Ezek. 18:4 "...the soul that sinneth, it shall die."
 - b. Ezek. 18:20 "...the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son:..."
 - c. Matt. 18:3 "...Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."
 - d. Matt 19:14 "But Jesus said, Suffer little children and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
2. A Child is in a safe condition.

B. Come to the age when we must decide to obey God or Satan

1. Do not have a specific age given in the Bible
2. Each child matures for itself
3. Age of Accountability

C. Jas. 1:13-18

1. L = Lust -- unlawful desire
2. C = Conceived -- finished
3. S = Sin -- transgression
4. D = Death -- spiritual

D. Rom. 3:23 -- all sin

E. Power of Darkness

1. Col. 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son."
2. Several passages discuss being in Darkness:
 - a. 1 Pet. 2:9b "...who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"
 - b. Eph. 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."
 - c. John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
 - d. John 12:46 "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth in me, should not abide in darkness."

- e. Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."
3. Darkness refers to sin - not born in sin !
 - a. Sin is transgression - 1 Jn. 3:4
 - b. It is disobedience - Heb. 2:2
 - c. All unbelievers, sinners are in the kingdom of darkness
 4. But no one has to remain in darkness [sin]

F. THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

1. In Col. 1:13 Paul discusses being **translated** from darkness into the kingdom ---
How are we translated? [moved, changed, converted]
2. Plan of Salvation
 - a. F = Faith
 - b. R = Repentance
 - c. C = Confession
 - d. B = Baptism - Gal. 3:27
 - e. We are born again - John 3:3-5
 - f. When we do these things we are put into the Kingdom or the church - We are added to the church - Acts 2:47

3. What is the plan of Living?
 - a. There is more to being in the kingdom than just being born again. We must live according to a certain plan!!!
 - b. Christian Graces - 2 Pet. 1:5-7
 - (1) Faith -- beginning
 - (2) Virtue -- courage to do right
 - (3) Knowledge -- information
 - (4) Temperance -- self control
 - (5) Patience -- longsuffering
 - (6) Godliness -- God likeness
 - (7) Brotherly Kindness -- love of brethren
 - (8) Love
 - c. These are the things we are to keep on adding to our life as long as we live.
4. But sometimes Christians fall:
 - a. Jas. 1:16 "Do not err, my beloved brethren."
 - b. Jas. 5:19 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him"
 - c. 2 Pet. 2:20-22
 - (1) Backslider - one who goes back into sin
 - (2) Erring Christian - erring child of God

II. DEATH

- A. Everyone will die - Heb. 9:27
- B. Only 3 conditions in which we can die:
 1. **Infant - Matt. 18:3** "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."
 2. **Faithful Child of God**
 - a. Rev. 2:10 "...be faithful unto death..."
 - b. Rev. 14:13 "...blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.."
 3. **Sinner**
 - a. One who has never obeyed the Gospel - lived and died in sin 2 Thes.1:7-9
 - b. Erring Christian Mat. 13:40-43 - parable of the Tares
- C. The body goes back to the dust of the earth. What about the soul?

III. HADES [Sheol]

- A. Hades = "The realm of the dead, the common receptacle of disembodied spirits"
Thayer p. 11 - there are two places in Hades
- B. Paradise - Abraham's Bosom
 1. Lk. 23:43 "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."
 2. Lk. 16:23 "...and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."
 3. It is a place of comfort - a place of rest
 4. Jesus went to this place after his death:
 - a. Acts 2:27 asv "Because thou wilt not leave my soul unto Hades, neither wilt thou give thy Holy One to see corruption."

b. Acts 2:31 asv "He foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption."

5. Paul talks about paradise 2 Cor. 5:1-4 2 Cor. 12:1-4

C. Tartarus or Torment

1. Lk. 16:23 "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

a. Torments

b. "Torture, torment, acute pain, torment of the wicked after death." Thayer p. 96

2. 2 Pet. 2:4, 9 "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;" -

---- " 2PET 2:9. The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:"

a. Hell = ASV Tartarus

b. God did not even spare the angels that sinned

3. Jude 6 "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

4. Ps. 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

D. Gulf

1. Lk. 16:26 "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."
2. Gulf = "A gaping opening, a chasm, gulf, a great interval" Thayer p. 667
3. This proves the doctrine of purgatory to be false. It teaches that after a person dies some of their relatives can give money to have a persons soul moved from torment to paradise.
4. After life is over on this earth we can do nothing to change our destiny.

IV. RESURRECTION

A. Time is uncertain

1. Mt. 24:36 "But of that day and hour knoweth not man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."
2. 2 Pet. 3:10 He will come as a thief in the night

B. All will be raised

1. Resurrection = reuniting of soul with body
2. John 5:28-29 - Righteous and the evil at the same time

C. Everything will be changed

1. Rev. 6:12-17
2. 2 Pet. 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

3. 1 Cor. 15:52 "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

V. JUDGMENT

A. All will be judged

1. Acts 17:31 "Because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world..."
2. 2 Cor. 5:10a "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..."
3. Rom. 14:12 "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
4. The dead will be resurrected and brought to the judgment.
5. Those who remain alive will have a new body - 1 Cor. 15:51-52

B. WE will all be judged by the Bible - Jn. 12:48 "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

C. We will be judged according to what we have done.

1. Rev. 20:13 "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [Hades] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."
2. 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

D. A day of separation

1. Righteous shall be set on the right hand of God - Mt. 25:31ff
2. The evil will be set on the left hand of God. -- Mt. 25:33b 46a

VI. THE ETERNAL STATE

A. To those on the right hand he will say "Come"

1. Mt. 25:34 "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."
2. This will be a place of rest
3. This will be a place where there will be no more tears, for there is nothing to cause tears - Rev. 21:4

B. To those on the left hand he will say "Depart"

1. Mt. 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angles."
2. Rev. 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."
3. Mt. 25:30 "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
4. Mark 9:48 "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

CONCLUSION

1. There are 6 states which man passes through on our journey to eternity
 - a. Life on Earth
 - b. Death
 - c. Hades
 - d. Resurrection
 - e. Judgment
 - f. Eternal state
 2. The Eternal state is dependent on what we do with our life on earth
 - a. Obey God and you will have a home in heaven
 - b. Disobey and you will have to be with the devil and his angles in hell for eternity.
 3. If you could spend 5 minutes in hell and return to this earth, no doubt you would obey and be a faithful child of God. But there is no second chance. Either obey while on earth or you cannot obey.
 4. Why do you wait? "...the Spirit and the bride say, come." Rev. 22:17
 5. "...let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" Num. 23:10b
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