

Series on Death and the Afterlife – sermon 2 - 26/09/10 (am)

On and On and On and On ...

Luke 16:19-31

Theme: After physical death a person continues to live forever.

Jesus tells a story in Luke 16:19-31.

It is not called a parable.

It touches on many important issues.

It teaches that after physical death a person lives on.

It *whispers* to us about immortality.

What is Immortality?

Three preliminary statements:

1. Only God is immortal,

cf. 1 Timothy 6:16.

**2. Human beings have immortality
conferred on them by God.**

3. The Bible uses the term *immortal* in a **narrow sense**, meaning everlasting salvation for body and soul, *cf.* 2 Tim. 1:10b. The Bible also teaches that all people are immortal in the **broadest sense** of the term.

In the broadest sense what does *immortality* mean?

1. Immortality means that the soul survives death.

People are made up of a **material** part (body) and an **immaterial** part (soul/spirit).

[The technical term is *dichotomy*.]

Lazarus and the rich man both died.

Lazarus was taken to Abraham's bosom by angels.

The rich man went to Hades/Hell.

Both men's bodies died but their souls/spirits continued to live.

Sin will someday destroy our bodies.

When our body dies it is not the end.

Some people would be content with
that being the end!

But consider ...

Ecclesiastes 3:11 *whispers* of
immortality.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 - the body returns to
dust but the spirit/soul lives on.

Matthew 22:32 - these men died
physically but lived on.

Luke 23:40-43 - the thief's soul would
live on.

2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-
15 - on the Day of Judgement all will
appear alive.

2. Immortality means that the soul lives forever.

This truth is *whispered* in Luke's story.

The soul/spirit survives physical death then lives on in *conscious* existence forever.

A soul could be destroyed by God but God preserves it, *cf.* Matthew 10:28.

Conclusion – Immortality: A Sobering Truth or a Glorious Truth?

For Believers it is a **glorious truth**. Death is just a doorway to an endless existence of full fellowship with the Lord, *cf.* 1 Corinthians 2:9.

May the Holy Spirit make you see this.

For those who are not Believers it should be a **sobering truth**.

Without Christ your death will be a doorway to an endless existence under the wrath of God.

You have God's Word now.

Listen to it!

*May the Holy Spirit make you see that
you are immortal and may He lead
you to saving faith in Christ for the
eternal health of your eternal soul.*