



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ

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Confidence Corner

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we want to examine a few thoughts about the Rich Man and Lazarus as found in Luke 16. Often when one thinks of death they think of the unknown. But the Bible reveals a great deal regarding the subject of death. The good news is, that for the Christian, death is positive—and that is an understatement.

When Lazarus dies Jesus says that he was carried off to Abraham's bosom. As one reads further in Luke 16, every indication is that though Lazarus suffered in this life, he was in a place of comfort. So much was Abraham's bosom a place of comfort that when Jesus spoke to the thief on the cross regarding it, Jesus calls it "paradise." I don't know about you but I long for such a place.

In addition, we learn that when we pass from this life we are in the Hadean realm. As noted, this general place of the dead is divided; there is paradise and there is Tartarus or "torments." From the moment our soul leaves the body, we are in eternity. We have one of two resting places until Jesus returns in the final judgment. Again for the Christian, the resting place is Paradise or Abraham's Bosom. Such is extremely comforting.

Notice as well that in Hades there is personal recognition. When the Rich Man dies and is in torments, he is able to see and recognize both Abraham and Lazarus. Isn't that amazing. The Rich Man knows one who lived thousands of years before he did. The Rich Man also recognizes Lazarus.

Since this is a brief space allow me just one more thought. Sometimes people object to a "waiting place" for the dead. I think perhaps part of the problem is that people think of time as they think of time here on the earth. Remember time is limited to the world and its creation. Before God created the heavens and the earth, there was simply eternity. After earth is destroyed, or when we pass from this life into the next, there is no time—only eternity! How do we explain a concept such as this? We think it will be a long waiting period in Hades but there will be no way to judge or even consider time.

jfb



Sessions



Speakers



Topics

12 Hours of Jesus

Saturday, December 28, 2019

8am to 8pm

Pritchard Community Center

Elizabethtown KY

Sunday's Sermons:

A. M. — Christ and the Church

Acts 2:41-47

P. M. — First Serve

Matt 6:22-24

A Father's Concern

For as many miles as we drive a year, we are exceptionally blessed. Not only have we not had accidents, most of the time our travels are uneventful and safe. We pray before we travel for our trip to be uneventful and safe and so we are always thankful after our trips are complete. That being said, sometimes my concern for Brenna and the girls when they travel together or alone is something that seems unavoidable. In other words, there are reasons to anticipate that something could go wrong. Let me provide an example.

Last Friday Emaleigh was getting ready to drive home for Thanksgiving break. The facilities workers at FHU provided a wonderful service for the students, which in turn put my mind as a parent a little more at ease. Emaleigh took her car to them. They checked it over. They aired up the tires (the low-pressure tire light was on as often happens when cooler weather comes) and told her she was low on oil. If she would purchase the oil at the auto store, they would fix her up. I was so thankful! Fast forward to the next day.

Emaleigh was picking up her cousins, John and Will D., at their dorm. She noticed the tire light was on. When she exited the car, she saw the tire was visibly low. I told her to go immediately to a tire shop in Henderson and have them fix the leak she had. When she went, it was close to closing time and they told her there was no leak, that it was probably just the cold weather, and then aired the tire up and sent her on her way. A few days later, her tire was near flat in our driveway in Etown. Back to that in a bit.

After 25 miles, Emaleigh stopped to get gas. When she got in the car to start it again, nothing would happen. She called me again. I ran her through a few steps like taking the car out of park and putting it back into park. I thought that might be the answer. It was not the answer. A man came to their aid with jumper cables. The car started but now the engine light was on. She went to a local auto parts store. They scanned her car and told her she was safe to drive home. I told her, "Whatever you do, do not turn off the car."

On that trip, my concern was a bit more than I usually feel. I wasn't worried about her safety per se; Her cousins are strong young men. But I was concerned if the car with the engine light would make it safely to Etown. I said my normal prayer and went on about a few other tasks I had to do. Emaleigh and the boys did make it safely. I was thankful.

Here is my point. If I as an earthly father have concerns regarding my children, how much more does our Father in heaven have concerns for us. Not only does God have concerns about our physical needs, but more so, He has concerns about our spiritual needs. I love that God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son so that we would not have to perish. How great that He showed His love towards us that even though we were sinners, Christ died for us. I know God, out of concern, has done what He could so that we can be saved from sin. I simply sometimes ponder how much such a loving Father must be concerned about all those who fail to avail themselves of the salvation He provides.

As a father, I know I wanted Emaleigh home safe. In my limited capacity, I tried to do what I could to ensure she made it. God, as our Father, wants His children home safe! He, in His power, has provided a sure hope! He simply waits for His children to follow the path home that He has provided. He has the greatest concern.

John F Board

Elizabethtown, Ky