

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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Some Lessons A Certain Rich Man Learned Too Late

In Luke 16:19, we read about a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and who fared sumptuously every day. However, dropping down to verses 22-23, we learn that this rich man died, he was buried, and he was in torment in Hades. Now, it is from here that a certain rich man learned some very valuable lessons too late. For instance...

He Learned That A Place of Torment Is For Real.

In Luke 16:24, we read about the rich man pleading for mercy. Why? Well, because he was being tormented in the flames of torment. You see, the rich man learned that a place of torment is for real, it truly does exist. Therefore, contrary to the belief of many today a place of torment is no joke, and those who do not become obedient to the truth will likewise someday learn all too late that a place of torment is for real.

He Learned That Material Goods Have No Value After Death.

In Luke 16:25, the rich man was reminded of the good things (i.e. material goods) that he received in his lifetime. Now, was it wrong for the rich man to have obtained good things in his lifetime? Absolutely not, the problem was the rich man gave no consideration to helping others who were in need of help (Luke 16:19-21). So, after death the rich man went to a place of torment, and he learned way too

late that material goods and living a life of luxury on earth, have and hold no value whatsoever after death.

He Learned That There Is A Great Gulf Fixed In Hades.

In Luke 16:26, the rich man is told that there is a great gulf fixed in hades between those in Abraham's bosom or Paradise (Luke 23:43) and those in torments, and because of that, there is no passing from one place to another. Therefore, to be simply put, once one dies their eternal destiny is sealed. So, my friends, if one is sent to torments after they die, they like the certain rich man will be forever in a state of hopelessness.

He Learned The Importance of Repentance.

In Luke 16:27-30, we read about the request of the rich man for Lazarus to be sent back from the dead to testify to his brothers so that they may repent lest they also be sent to the place of torment. You see, the rich man learned too late the importance of repentance, but although it was too late for him to repent, he now understood the importance of repentance, and he sincerely desired for his five brothers to learn the importance of repentance before it was likewise too late for them.

He Learned Who One Must Hear To Obtain Salvation.

In Luke 16:31, the rich man in reference to his five brothers was told, "*if they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.*" You see, the rich man and his brothers lived under the law of Moses, therefore it was necessary for them to hear Moses and the prophets in order for them to know the way of salvation. However, we do not live under the law of Moses today, but rather we live under the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). Therefore, my friends, just as the rich man learned who one must hear to obtain salvation, it is necessary for one today to hear the word of God (Romans 10:14-17), and to obey the gospel of Christ in order to be saved (Romans 1:16; Hebrews 5:9).

Take heed to these lessons learned too late by a certain rich man, make proper application of these lessons in your life, and beware lest you too learn these lessons all too late.

✍️ Brad Phillips

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. However, for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time, my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. However, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. However, I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

This article was taken from "Thoughts Worth Thinking" which is edited by: Mike Davis

"I Don't See Anything Wrong With That"

How many times have we heard this reply when we question some belief or practice which may be without Bible authority? The saddest thing about the statement is that many times it is really true.

So many individuals have so little knowledge and understanding of the Bible when they are confronted with some false teaching or practice they really do not have the ability to see anything wrong with the sinful doctrine or practice.

We all need our "senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). The only way we can have this ability is to put forth the necessary effort to learn and understand the truth. If we know what is right we will be able to recognize that which is contrary to it as being wrong and sinful.

✍ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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