

**1. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus**

- a) Luke 16:19-31 What details in this parable make it clear this story should not be taken literally?
- b) What are the key lessons we should learn from this fictional story?
- c) How does the true story of the raising of Martha and Mary's brother shed more light on what happens when a person dies? John 11:11-14, 23-27, 38-44.
- d) What can we learn from the silence of Lazarus of Bethany regarding his experience in the grave?

**2. The testimony of Jesus to a dying thief**

- a) Luke 23:39-43 Why it is important where we place the adverb "today"?
- b) Was Jesus in Paradise that day? John 20:17
- c) What promise made by Jesus to His disciples was also a promise for the dying thief? John 14:1-3
- d) How does this story illustrate the fact that salvation is by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus our Savior and not by works? (See also Ephesians 2:8-9)

**3. To depart and be with Christ**

- a) Philippians 1:21-24 What did Paul mean when he spoke of desiring "to depart and be with Christ"?
- b) How does Paul's inspired testimony, received from the Lord, help

us to understand his desire to be with Christ? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

- c) When did Paul understand he would be with Christ and receive a crown of righteousness? 2 Timothy 4:7-8
- d) How would you respond to someone who says, "I just want to close my eyes, fall asleep in death, and the next thing I know I'll see Jesus!"?

**4. Preaching to the spirits in prison**

- a) 1 Peter 3:18 When Jesus died on the cross and was buried in Joseph's tomb, what was his condition in death?
- b) What did Jesus Himself teach about death? John 11:11-14
- c) 1 Peter 3:19-20 If Jesus was in the sleep of death in the tomb, how could He go and preach to anyone?
- d) How then did the Spirit preach to those who were in the prison of sin before the flood? 2 Peter 2:5

**5. The souls under the altar**

- a) Revelation 6:9-11 Are the souls crying under the altar literal or symbolic?
- b) Where else do we hear of someone's blood crying out? Genesis 4:9-10
- c) Discussion question: Why is it important to study all the Bible teaching about life, death, resurrection, and eternal life?

