

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



The Solid Rock

Hymn 92



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We're glad you're here!**



HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Call to Worship

Psalm 81:9-16

Psalm 81:9-16 There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. **I am the LORD your God**, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. **"But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. **Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!** I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and **with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.**"**

Nothing but the Blood

Hymn 266



Sweet Hour of Prayer

Hymn 439





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

plbiblechurch@gmail.com

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

Receiving of the Offering



2 Corinthians 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:
Promise Land Bible Church
PO Box 1437
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Famous Quote:

“Our God is a consuming fire, and we try to reduce Him to something we can handle or are comfortable with ... We are religious consumers. We want our religion to be convenient. It’s the perpetual job of writers, preachers, the church and the gospel to help people respond to God as He reveals Himself.”

EUGENE PETERSON



Today's Message

“Can We Hear?”

Scripture text: Hebrews 11:23-40

Act 28:20-23 For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, **since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.**" And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. But **we desire to hear from you** what your views are, for **with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.**" When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. **From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.**

Luke 16:27-31 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers--so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, **'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'** And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, **'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'**”

Moses and the Prophets, this is the key to Biblical Evangelism.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.** Avoid such people.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, **deceiving and being deceived.**

A contrast in eternity (vv. 23–31).

The King James Version uses the word hell in Luke 16:23, but the Greek word is not “hell” but “hades.” **It is the temporary realm of the dead as they await the judgment.**

The permanent place of punishment for the lost is “hell,” the lake of fire. One day, death will give up the bodies and hades will give up the souls (Rev. 20:13, where “hell” should be “hades”), and the lost will stand before Christ in judgment (Rev. 20:10–15).

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I **saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.** Then another book was opened, which is **the book of life.** And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, **Death and Hades gave up the dead** who were in them, and **they were judged,** each one of them, according to what they had done. **Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.** This is the second death, the lake of fire. And **if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

From our Lord's description, we learn that hades had two sections: a paradise portion called "Abraham's bosom," and a punishment portion. It is believed by many theologians **that our Lord emptied the paradise part of hades when He arose from the dead and returned to the Father** (John 20:17; Eph. 4:8–10).

Matthew 27:50-53 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. **The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.**

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, '**I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.**'"

Ephesians 4:8-10 Therefore it says, "**When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.**" (In saying, "**He ascended,**" what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

We know that today “paradise” is in heaven, where Jesus reigns in glory (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 12:1–4). There is no indication in Scripture that souls in heaven can communicate with people in hades or with people on earth.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know **that this man was caught up into paradise**--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- and **he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.**

This narrative refutes so-called “soul sleep,” for both the rich man and Lazarus were conscious, one enjoying comfort and the other suffering torment. It is a solemn thing to ponder one’s eternal destiny and realize the reality of divine punishment.

C.S. Lewis was told about a gravestone inscription that read: “**Here lies an atheist—all dressed up and no place to go.**” Lewis quietly replied, “I bet he wishes that were so!”

The interesting thing is that, in hades, **the rich man began to pray!** First, he prayed for himself, that Abraham would have mercy on him and allow Lazarus to bring him some comfort (Luke 16:23–26).

The word torment is used four times in this account, and it speaks of **definite pain**. This is the same word that is used for the doom feared by the evil spirits (Mark 5:7) and **the judgments God will send on an unrepentant world** (Rev. 9:5; 11:10; 20:10).

If hell is the permanent prison of the damned, then hades is the temporary jail, **and the suffering in both is very real.**

Revelation 9:5 They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and **their torment was like the torment of a scorpion** when it stings someone.

People ask, “How can a loving God even permit such a place as hell to exist, let alone send people there?”

But in asking that question, **they reveal that they do not understand either the love of God or the wickedness of sin.** God’s love is a holy love (“God is light,” 1 John 1:5), not a shallow sentiment, and **sin is rebellion against a holy and loving God.** God does not “send people to hell.” **They send themselves there by refusing to heed His call and believe on His Son.** The “**unbelieving**” are named second on the list of the people who go to hell, even before the murderers and the liars (Rev. 21:8; also see John 3:18–21, 36).

Revelation 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the **faithless**, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, **their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."**

John 3:36 Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life; whoever **does not obey the Son** shall not see life, but **the wrath of God remains on him.**

John 3:18-21 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And **this is the judgment**: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness rather than the light** because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But **whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.**"

Abraham gave two reasons why Lazarus could not bring the comfort that was requested: **the character of the rich man and the character of the eternal state.**

The rich man had lived for the “good things” of earth, and had experienced abundant temporal blessings. **He had his reward** (Matt. 6:2, 5, 16).

He had determined his own destiny by leaving God out of his life, and now neither his character nor his destiny could be changed. Lazarus could not leave his place of comfort and make even a brief visit to the place of torment.

Matthew 6:2-5 "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. **Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. **Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.**

Then the rich man prayed for his brothers (Luke 16:27–31).

He did not say, “I’m glad my brothers will also come here. We’ll have a wonderful time together!”

Occasionally you hear a lost person say, “Well, I don’t mind if I go to hell. I’ll have a lot of company!” But **there is no friendship or “company” in hell!**

Hell is a place of torment and loneliness. It is not an eternal New Year’s Eve party at which sinners have a good time doing what they used to do on earth.

Luke 16:28 for I have five brothers--**so that he may warn them**, lest they also come into this place of torment.'

Luke 16:28 suggests that Lazarus had testified to the rich man and probably to his brothers, but none of them had taken his witness seriously. **But now, Lazarus' testimony is very important!** The brothers knew that Lazarus had died, so if the beggar appeared to them, they would be frightened and would listen to his witness. ***People in hades have a concern for the lost, but they cannot do anything about it.***

Abraham explained that only one thing could prevent the five men from eventually joining their brother: **they needed to hear the Word of God and respond to it by faith.**

Moses and the Prophets tell sinners **how to repent and be saved**, and the Jews heard them read every Sabbath in the synagogue. Though miracles can attest to the authority of the preacher, **they cannot produce either conviction or conversion in the hearts of the lost.**

Faith that is based solely on miracles is not saving faith (John 2:23–25).

John 2:23-25 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, **many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.** But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, **for he himself knew what was in man.**

A man named **Lazarus did come back from the dead**, and some of the people wanted to kill him! (see John 11:43–57; 12:10) Those who claim that there can be no effective evangelism without “signs and wonders” need to ponder this passage and also John 10:41–42.

John 11:43-48 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out.**" The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Unbind him, and let him go.**" Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, "**What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.**"

John 10:41-42 And many came to him. And they said, "**John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.**" And many believed in him there.

John 12:9-11 When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, **not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus**, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, because **on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.**

In the rich man's lifetime, **God had spoken to him in many ways**. God had permitted him to have riches, yet he did not repent (Rom. 2:4–5).

Romans 2:4-5 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing **that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?** But because of your hard and impenitent heart **you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.**

Lazarus had witnessed to the rich man, and so had the Old Testament Scriptures that were familiar to the Jews, but **his heart remained unbelieving.**

The fact that Lazarus died first was a strong witness to the rich man, **a reminder that one day he would also die, but even a death at his very doorstep did not melt the man's heart.**

In spite of the fact that he was in torment in hades, the rich man did not change; **he was still self-centered.**

He prayed, but it was for his comfort and the safety of his family.

He was not concerned about other lost sinners; his only concern was his five brothers.

He argued with God instead of submitting to His will.

This indicates that the punishment of lost sinners is not remedial; it does not improve them. **Hades and hell are not hospitals for the sick; they are prisons for the condemned.**

Dr. Luke does not tell us how the covetous Pharisees responded to this account. **They certainly knew Moses and the Prophets, and this meant even greater responsibility—and greater condemnation**

John 12:37-40 Though he had done so many signs before them, **they still did not believe in him**, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, "**He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.**"

We must remind ourselves that the rich man was not condemned because he was rich, nor was Lazarus saved because he was poor. Abraham was a very wealthy man, yet he was not in torment in hades. **The rich man trusted in his riches and did not trust in the Lord.**

“The safest road to hell,” wrote C.S. Lewis, “is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

Mark 8:36-37 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

Trust and Obey

Hymn 454

