

"Where Do People Go When They Die?" Luke 16:19-31

Death leads to a radical reversal of man's situational position and God's creational purpose. This reversal is also incomplete as death doesn't have the final verdict. Yet, it is also irreversible as our eternal destiny cannot be changed after death.

Death's Reversal is Insane

- Situational Position
- Creational Purpose
 - Death is Unnatural

"Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

"Cursed is the ground ... you will eat of it all the days of your life ... till you return to the ground ... and to dust you shall return." —Gen 3:17, 19
 - Death is Separation
 - Death is Feared

Death's Reversal is Incomplete

- WHERE did they go then?

"Then I saw a great white throne ... and the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged ... according to their deeds." —Revelation 20:11-13
- WHERE do we go now?

"And he was saying, 'Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!' And Jesus said, 'Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.'" —Luke 23:42-43
- WHAT happens there?
- WHO are we there?

Death's Reversal is Irreversible

- Eternal Destiny Decided Pre-Death
- Eternal Destiny Decided Post-Death
 - Examples:
 - Catholic Purgatory
 - Rob Bell & Universalists

Rob Bell in *Love Wins*

"There will be endless opportunities in an endless amount of time for people to say yes to God ... given enough time, everybody will turn to God and find themselves in the joy and peace of God's presence. The love of God will melt every hard heart, and even the most 'depraved sinners' will eventually give up their resistance and turn to God."

– Motivation:

- Protect People from Hell (16:27-28)
- Protect God from PR nightmare

Rob Bell in *Love Wins*

"Telling a story in which billions of people spend forever somewhere in the universe trapped in a black hole of endless torment and misery with no way out **isn't a very good story**. Telling a story **about a God** who inflicts unrelenting punishment on people because they didn't do or say or believe the correct things in a brief window of time called life isn't ...

"... a **very good story**. In contrast, everybody enjoying God's good world together with no disgrace or shame, justice being served, and all the wrongs being made right is a **better story**. It is bigger, more loving, more expansive, more extraordinary, beautiful, and inspiring than **any other story** about the ultimate course history takes."

– Methodology:

- Scripture is no longer sufficient (30)
- Jesus' death is no longer necessary