

## State of the Dead Between Death and the Judgment.

Sermon by Rev. A. M. Ross pastor of the Baptist church of this city.

Men have explored the great oceans and mapped out the lines of passage over which mighty ships ply as they carry the world's commerce. They have penetrated the jungle and the wilderness, descended into the depths of the earth and have made known many of her hidden treasures. They have made charts of the heavens and found out the marvelous movements of many of the heavenly bodies. Wonderful, indeed, are the achievements wrought by man's genius as one reviews the knowledge of the world to-day and compares it with what it was one hundred years ago. But with all the brilliant achievements of men, had not God come to us with his divine revelations concerning the eternal world, we should still be in the dark about the things of greatest importance.

My duty, in dealing with the subject assigned me for this occasion, will be to point out, so far as time will admit, the scriptures which are our only source of information on the subject and as faithfully as I can, unfold their meaning. For wise and great as are some men, not one of them is able to give us a ray of reliable knowledge about the soul in the eternal world. We are, therefore, limited in the study of this subject to the facts found in the Bible.

According to the scriptures which we shall examine there is an Intermediate State or Age, through which the soul passes between the time of physical death and the final day of judgment that shall follow the resurrection.

There are two words used in the original language of the Old and New Testaments, to designate the spirit world or eternal world, namely "Sheol," in the Hebrew and "Hades" in the Greek; both of these mean the spirit world into which go the good and the bad at death.

Now in the 16th chapter of Luke beginning with the 19th verse it is clearly taught that there are two places in Hades in to which the soul may go. We shall now examine, Luke 16: 19-24.

"Now there was a certain rich man and he was clothed in purple and fine linen and fairs sumptuously every day and a certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate full of sores and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; yea, even the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass that the beggar died and that he was carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades (hell) he lifted up his eyes being in torments and seeth Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am in anguish in this flame." (Luke 16:19-24.) Here the divine messenger lifts the veil for a moment, that mortals may have one never to be forgotten vision into the eternal world. We learn from the above passage that the wicked in the intermediate state are conscious of great torments. Dives had his mental powers, he knew Abraham, remembered his five brothers back in the world-fearing they might come to that place of torment-pleaded with Abraham to send a messenger from the dead to warn them not to come where he was.

In the intermediate state the wicked are in a hopeless condition. "When a wicked man dieth his expectation shall perish" Prov. 11:7. "And be-

sides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us that would come from thence." Luke 16:26. "He that is unjust let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still." Rev. 21:11.

The soul during the time between death and the judgment exists without the body. This fact is common to both the good and the bad. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Eccl. 12:7. Stephen saw in a dying moment the heavens open and called on the Lord; saying, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit" Acts 7:59. Following this statement we are told that they took up his body and buried it. See w at is said in I. Cor. 15th Chapter about the spiritual and the natural body. Then again the departed ones are not spoken of as men and women, but as souls or spirits when referred to in the Scriptures. See Hebrews 12:32, Rev. 6:9; 20:4. The soul therefore, being separated from the body does not experience complete reward in the intermediate state but it will enter upon its full and complete reward at the resurrection when united with the spiritual body that shall come forth from the planting of the natural body.

The word "Paradise" is another name for the place of the righteous dead during the intermediate state. Jesus said to the thief on the cross who believed "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43. This word "Paradise" has an interesting history.—To the ancient Persians, it meant, an enclosure, a garden, a pleasure ground, etc.—to the Hebrews, it was thought to be the part of Hades where the souls of the pious dead await the judgment day. The word as we find it in our English New Testament comes from the Greek word "paradeisus". There are other passages that give further evidence of the happy conditions of the righteous; for instance, Paul declared in Phil. 1:21-24, that "to die is gain" and "to depart this life far better than to remain in it." Again he says in II Cor. 5:8. "We are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." This gives us a great light upon the meaning of the word paradise as studied above. Again Paul declared, in Phil. 1:23, that it was very far better for him to depart this life and be with Christ. The Scriptures teach that "Christ was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God." (Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51; Acts 1:11. c. 2:33, 34; c. 7:55, 56. Eph. 1:20. Heb. 12:10 and I Pet 3:22.)

These teach that Christ will remain there in the Father's presence until the restoration of all things—until his second coming which will immediately precede the final judgment. The conclusion from these evidences and others could be added, that I reach, is that the souls of the departed pious are in a blessed and happy state in the keeping of Christ. Heaven means the habitation of God and the abode of blessed spirits, also a state of bliss. I also conclude from the statements and authority of Scripture that the rewards bestowed upon the righteous at the judgment day will equip them completely for the fullest enjoyment of heaven. Their disembodied spirits shall then be clothed with an immortal spiritual body and crowned with crowns of victory and white robes of righteousness.

Concerning the intermediate state of the wicked, the conclusion is that they are in torments (Luke 16:23-25f) from which state there is no escape to the condition of bliss of the righteous (v. 6) and that their very

abode is a place of torment. And that the events of the judgment will not relieve their condition but make it worse by giving them at that time their full penalty for all the evil instigated by them while on earth.

My final conclusion upon the whole subject may be summed up as follows:

All spirits go into the spirit world at death, and that the Bible name for that abode is (2) Hades or (1) Sheol; that Sheol or Hades, is divided by an impassable gulf into two places—one for the home of the saved called paradise, heaven, the holy city etc.; the other for the home of the lost, called hell, the lake of fire, outer darkness, place of torment etc. And finally, that the intermediate state of both the saved and the lost is the period which they experience while out of the body as spirits or souls, that the judgment day will not change their abode but fit them for complete happiness in the place of happiness, and complete punishment in the place of punishment.

### ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that letters of Administration upon the estate of Glover Harris, deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the Probate Court of Cape Girardeau county bearing date the 17th day of October, 1908.

All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them for allowance, within one year from the date of said letters or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate; and if said claims be not exhibited within two years from the date of the publication of this notice, they will be forever barred.

Bertha M. Harris,  
Administratrix.

### NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Election of Seven Directors of The Peoples National Bank of Jackson, Missouri will be held in the office of the Bank on Tuesday, January 10, 1909.

Polls open from 10 to A. M. to 3 P. M.

9 William Paar, Cashier.

### SHERIFF'S SALE UNDER GENERAL TRANSCRIPT EXECUTION.

By virtue and authority of a transcript general execution, issued from the office of the clerk of the circuit court of Cape Girardeau county, Missouri, to me directed and returnable to the January term, 1909, of said court in favor of John Devore and against Mrs. Adolph Anna Macke.

I, the undersigned sheriff of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri have levied upon and seized all the right, title and interest of said defendant in and to the following described real estate, situate in the county of Cape Girardeau, Mo., to-wit:

Part of Survey No. 2271 Twp. 30, Range 11, East bounded as follows, to-wit:

Begin at the South East corner of the L. M. Kinder tract in said survey from which a B. Walnut 16 in bns. S. 32 degrees E. 76 lks; thence South 68 degrees W. 4.31 chains to a corner from which a B. Walnut 10 in bns. S. 42 degrees W. 29 lks; thence South 26 3/4 W. 4.00 chs. to the S. E. corner of Lot 12 of Block 3 of the Town of Whitewater; thence South 63 3/4 E. 3.80 chs. to a corner; thence N. 26 3/4 degrees E. 7.50 chs. to the place of beginning and containing 2 acres more or less; also the W. 1/4 of Lot No. 3 of the North East 1/4 of Section 3 in Township 29 North, Range 11 East, containing 56.73 acres.

This property is sold, subject to a mortgage to bank of White-water for \$108.00 on W. 1/4 of Lot No. 3, N. E. 1/4 of Section 3, Township 29, Range 11, 56 73-100 acres recorded in Deed Trust record No. 1 at page 624 in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri.

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An up-to-date Hat—Thoroughbred or Statesman.

A pair of Selz Royal Blue Shoes.

A nice Tie.

A pair of fine Gloves.

A pair of Work Gloves.

A nice pair of Slippers.

A Muffler.

A Fancy Vest.

A box of guaranteed Half Hose.

### For the Son.

A pair of Rubber Boots, a Tie, Handkerchiefs, Hat, Underwear, Pocket Knife, Muffler, a box of Collars, a nice Suit of Clothes or an Overcoat, &c.

### For Mother.

A New Home Sewing Machine.

A Quick Meal Range.

A Kitchen Cabinet or any other nice piece of Furniture.

A nice Rocker, &c.

A nice Cloak—all at bargain prices.

A pair of Gloves.

A pair of warm Slippers.

A Waist Pattern or Dress Pattern.

A Newport Shawl or Silk Shawl.

### For Daughter.

A Piano.

Silk Waist Pattern.

Gloves in Kid or Golf, long or short.

Nice Neckwear or Belt.

Hand Bags.

Stamped Linens or Pillow Tops with materials.

A Stylish Cloak.

A fine Dress Pattern, &c., Handkerchiefs to suit.

I will on

TUESDAY JANUARY 5, 1909 between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and five o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at the south front door of the court house in the city of Jackson, County of Cape Girardeau and the State of Missouri, sell at public auction, for cash, to the highest bidder, the above described real estate, to satisfy said execution and costs.

BERNHARD GOCKEL,  
Sheriff.

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