

Paul's feelings toward Death

- Phil 1:21-24
- To die is gain.
- A strait between living and dying.
- A desire(lust) to depart
- It is very far better.
- Do we feel this way yet?
- Paul knew things we don't know
- He was caught up into paradise
- What do we know about paradise?

Jesus and the Thief to Paradise

- *Jesus Christ brought life and immortality to light through the gospel 2 Tim 1:8-10*
- *Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. Luke 23:43*
- *“paradeisos... a garden, pleasure ground; grove, park... ‘the garden of Eden...’”*

Paul also went to Paradise

- *I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 2Cor 12:1-5*

Paul also went to Paradise

- *visions and revelations of the Lord:*
- *whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows —*
- *such a one was caught up to the third heaven.*
 - *First Heaven – Birds Fly;*
 - *Second Heaven Sun, Moon and Stars*
 - *3rd Heaven – Spiritual Realm where God dwells*
- *how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 2Cor 12:1-5.*

Paul also went to Paradise

- *visions and revelations of the Lord:*
- *whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows —*
- *And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me — to keep me from exalting myself! 2 Cor 12:7-8*

Paul also went to Paradise

- *visions and revelations of the Lord:*
- *caught up into Paradise and*
- *heard inexpressible words,*
- *which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*
- *surpassing greatness of the revelations,*
- *to keep me from exalting myself!*
- *God gave Paul something very precious –*
amazing, glorious, exalting, surpassing greatness
- *Could not reveal what he saw and heard to us.*
- *Did reveal how it affected his view of death.*

Rich Man and Lazarus

- Parable? Probably but still teaches truth.
- Whether parable or real, we have to be careful
- Need to be certain to tie what we can to other Scriptures.
- Don't want to carry any of this too far.

Rich Man and Lazarus

- *died and carried by the angels*
- We have nothing to tie this to. No example of it in the Old Testament. Closest is Elijah:
- *suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 2 Kings 2:11*
- But no angels mentioned,
- *And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Lk 9:30-32*

Died and Carried by Angels

- Perfectly fits with Jesus New Teaching:
- *If anyone keeps My word He will never see death. Jn. 8:51*
- *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" Jn 11:*
- When the angels come and carry, we are not seeing death... Even though we die we shall live... Lazarus in comfort... shall never die!

Abraham's Bosom

- *So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. Luke 16:22*
- *And Jesus said to him, Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. Lk 23:43*
- *Jesus was in Hades Acts 2:26-27, 31*
- *Paul was caught up to paradise 2Cor 12:1-4, 7*
- *concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Mt. 22:31-33*
- Where were they – Sheol / Hades / Paradise

Hades

- *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 1Cor 15:54-55*
- *I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Rev 1:18*
- *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:13*

What is Paradise Like? – Inferences

- Not lawful to utter: we have Paul's excitement and a name – connection with paradise of Eden

- *“paradeisos... a garden, pleasure ground; grove, park... ‘the garden of Eden...’”*

- new home called paradise (garden, park grove)

- A new existence in glory –

- *And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Lk. 9:30-31*

Jesus Brought Life and Immortality

- *has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 2Tim 1:8-10*
- **Many new vista's and perspectives:**
 - anyone keep My word never see death. Jn. 8:51
 - Believe in Me shall live even if he dies Jn 11:25-26
 - everyone who lives/believes in Me shall never die
 - Today you will be with me in paradise. Lk 23:43
 - carried by angels to Abraham's bosom Lk. 16:
 - Moses & Elijah appeared in glory. Lk 9:29-31

If All is working Properly

- *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the **inward man is being renewed day by day.** 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us **a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory** 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but **the things which are not seen are eternal** 2 Cor 4:16-18*

