

No Second Chance!

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" {Hebrews 9:27}

Many years ago yours truly was involved in a prison ministry that involved conducting a Bible study as well as sharing the Gospel with inmates in the segregation unit. One inmate in particular an excellent rapport was established with and, on every visit, he would listen to what I had to say. Over a period of time, this inmate was literally pleaded with to repent and trust Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour but, he always refused. One day on the news it was announced that this inmate had died of an apparent heart attack at his cell. As I listened to the news about this my heart sank and, even though a grown man, I just wanted to cry; not for myself but for this inmate. In the closing moments of his life, did he repent and trust Jesus as Saviour? Only three people know that answer; him, the Lord, and the devil.

As the prison chaplain was escorting me from the segregation unit to where the Bible study was held, I commented on the death of the inmate saying, "If he, in the closing moments of life, had not trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, then he was in a devil's hell for all eternity." The chaplain replied with, "But you don't know that because God might give him another chance." By making such a statement as this, the chaplain was admitting that he did not believe what God said in His Word, the Bible. God says what He means and, He means what He says and ever since Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, he has been trying to convince people otherwise. The fact of the matter is that, when people die, their eternal fate is settled for all eternity - there will **NOT** be any second chance.

Jesus told of two men, one a saved man and the other a lost man. Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift 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 tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside 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. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. {Luke 16:19-31} Wealth and poverty had nothing to do with the eternal state of these men; it was a matter of believing or not believing in God.

My friend, there are no second chances after death; your only opportunity to settle your eternal destiny is today while you are alive. Refusing to repent and trust Jesus Christ as personal Saviour means eternity in hell. On the other hand, repenting of sin and trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour means having sins forgiven and going to Heaven to be with Him for all eternity. PLEASE reads these Bible verses carefully. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." {Romans 6:23} "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." {John 3:36} Salvation for the repentant sinner is based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ for we read, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18-19}

The **ONLY** opportunity for salvation is during this lifetime; there will **NOT** be a second chance after physical death. Anyone who does not believe this does not believe the Bible, and they are calling God a liar. Friend, I most humbly extend to you an invitation to repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. We do have God's promise to forgive and save those who do believe in Him. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11-13}

~Richard A. Ciarrocca

All Scripture references are KJV