

## UNVEILING THE HEAVEN & HELL DILEMMA

SERMON NOTES • DECEMBER 30, 2018

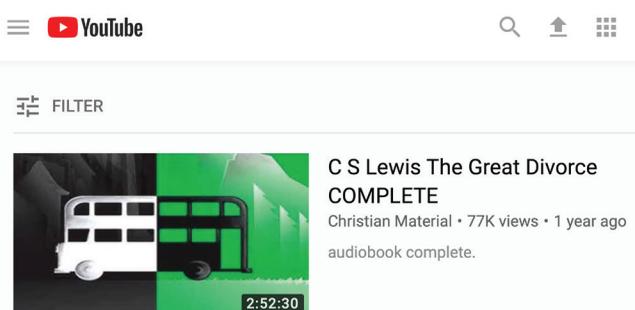
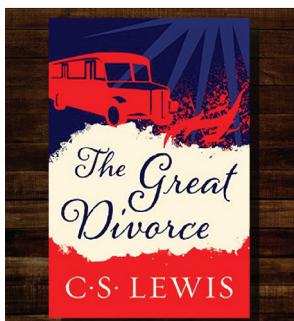


**LUKE 16:19-31** <sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.'

<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup> He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

### Table Talk Questions:

- **What is your understanding of heaven?**
- **Where is heaven? What is heaven like?**
- **How do you get to heaven?**



## A New Heaven and New Earth

"When we talk about eternal life, heaven, we are really describing God's vision for us."

-TED CAMPBELL, *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials*

### **Revelation 21:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

"Heaven is a state of being where the Kingdom existence is now...so what we do matters."

-REV. BECKY POOR

## What We Do Matters

"We must play an active role in the Kingdom of God."

-REV. FERNIE RIVERA

## Salvation Through Faith Alone

### **John 14:1-6**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

"We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ because of God's grace."

-REV. JANE RIECKE

### **Our Baptismal Vows**

1. Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of your sin?
2. Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they may present themselves?
3. Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, place your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord?

"You can choose heaven right here, right now. Will you make that choice?"

-REV. JANE RIECKE