

# ***GOD OF THE LIVING***



*“I’m tired of this miserable world. I’m ready for the long sleep before the resurrection.”  
“Who believes in a resurrection? I’ll just be glad to melt into Nothingness and be no more!”*

Everybody has an opinion about what happens over there on the other side of death.

Two questions:

Will we be alive beyond the grave?

Are we alive now?

Jesus’ challenging answer to the second question:

***“The hour is coming, and now is,  
when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God.  
And all who hear shall live.”***

*John 5*

He’s talking about the “walking dead”, who eat and drink and work and sleep, go to Facebook, watch TV.

**They are dead until they hear the Shepherd’s voice and become alive to God.**



**Being alive to God is eternal life.**

***“ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent..”***

*John 17*

Eternal life begins on this side of the grave.

If we keep walking with God on this side of the grave....

..... we will go on walking with God in the life beyond.

### **The cry of the forgotten ones.**

*“You keep talking to me about life after death. What about now? I can’t find work. I can’t feed my family. We’ve been evicted with no place to go.*

*So don’t preach to me about eternal life when your stomach is full and your pockets are bulging!*

*Will this misery go on forever?*

*Will those tyrants face justice for the misery they inflict on us?”*

### **The long view.**

Jesus promises that at the End there will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust.

***“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.”***

*John 5*

Those who received God’s mercy and lived it, receive more mercy.

Those who rejected God’s mercy and refused to show mercy now face judgment.

**The King will divide the sheep from the goats with a simple question:**



**What did you do for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner?**

The sheep cannot remember.

The goats cannot remember.

**But the King remembers.**

### **Between now and the resurrection.**

Many believers are convinced from scripture that there is no consciousness between the moment of death and the resurrection. There are passages of scripture which support this belief.

Yet the final word on the issue comes from the mouth of Jesus, who is Lord of scripture.

To the thief on the cross Jesus says,

***“Today you will be with me in Paradise,”***



To religious men with hard hearts Jesus gives the parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus, the Beggar. Lazarus, who had nothing to offer God but his suffering, dies and is carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom---Paradise. When the Rich Man dies, he descends to Hades, and gets a taste of the beggar's suffering.

And to the Sadducees, who claim, "When you're dead you're dead!," Jesus speaks of a resurrection of glorious beings, who are like the angels, adding that....

***“ God is God, not of the dead, but of the living. They are all alive to him.!”***

*Luke 20*

### **The kingdom journey.**

According to Jesus our physical death is simply the beginning of a new journey under the eye of God.

Wherever we are at this moment, God is there.

Wherever we land on the other side of death, God is there.

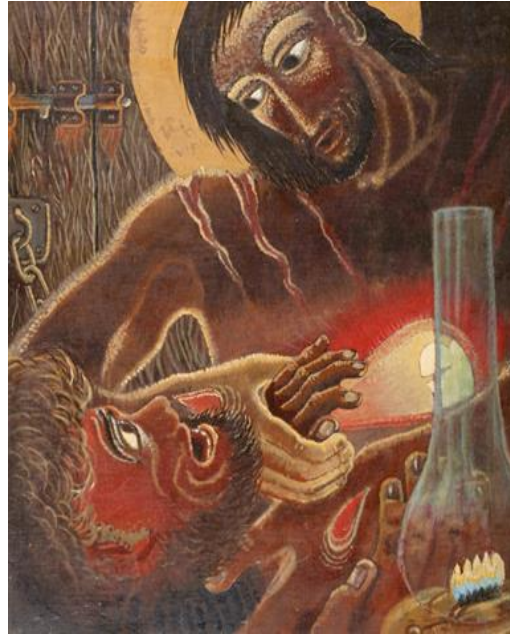
Wherever we find God....

**We encounter love.**

**We encounter mercy.**

**We encounter judgment.**

**There is no escape from God's love, or his mercy.... or his judgment....**



**.... In this world or the next.**

*Prayer: Lord, we call to you the God of the living. Call us to life now so we can encounter you now and after we breathe our last breath. You promised the penitent thief that today he would be with you in paradise. Today! May each day be today for us. May each day we hear your voice, rise from our tombs, come forth and receive and live in your mercy. And when our last day comes may we find ourselves with you.... alive and wrapped in your love and mercy. Amen.*

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THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN