

## **TO DISREGARD THE SCRIPTURES LEAVES NOTHING**

### **Luke 16:19-31**

**Introduction:** It seems that each species follows its previous generation, such as the birds, cattle, wild animals and so on. People do the same. In the text it seems the rich man was concerned that his brothers not follow him. As the rich man cried out to Father Abraham, he was told that his brothers have the SCRIPTURES, if they ignore them, there is nothing left. Giving some thought to what the rich man was told, the same thing can be applied to our own generation. If ours or any generation of mankind ignores, disregards God's Word, the Scriptures, then there is nothing left to turn to.

### **I. GOD GAVE THE SCRIPTURES FOR A REASON/PURPOSE**

1. The Scriptures were given to guide men to God and to heaven.
  - To reveal the way and to guard the way.
  - Any who search the scriptures will find:
    - that to be worldly minded brings eternal death.
    - that whosoever humbles him/herself before God will be saved.
    - that no one will ever be turned away who seeks the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - complete instructions for every need.
    - warnings that are most solemn.
    - invitations most earnest.
2. The Scriptures are fully efficient.
  - Nothing is lacking since God is the author.
  - They are God's tools to work His works in men's hearts.
    - To quicken the dead, to cleanse the unclean, to comfort the afflicted, and to save the lost.
  - All that is required for the scriptures to work is for them to be applied by the Holy Spirit to a person's heart.

### **II. THERE IS NO HOPE, NOTHING LEFT, FOR ANY WHO DISREGARD THE SCRIPTURES**

1. The rich man hoped for a new method to save his brothers but Father Abraham revealed that if the scriptures were ineffective, a message from the grave would do no good either.
2. A message from the dead couldn't convince the unbelieving.
  - What could the dead say that hasn't already been said in the scriptures?
  - Jesus raised Lazarus and the officials tried to kill Lazarus to quiet him for they had no change of heart.
  - Jesus, Himself, rose from the grave and immediately the officials made up a lie that somebody stole His body. They had no change of heart.
  - In the last days, Moses and Elijah will return to earth to preach and will be put to death. There will have been no change of heart.

3. A message from the dead couldn't convert/save the lost.
  - There would be some alarm and surprise, but it would quickly wear off and people would return to their normal, worldly way of life.
  - Israel forgot the Lord within hours of His mighty works at the Red Sea and many times during their wilderness wanderings.
  - Those who withstand the voice of God in the scriptures will certainly withstand their fellow men's voice, even if the doors of heaven and hell were opened.
4. To convert/save a soul is God's work and only God can perform that.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. There is no hope, nothing left, for those who hear the Gospel and refuse to accept it.
  - Many hear it, even say it's right, but never accept it. They are content to stay as they are in the world and are never concerned about Hell.
  - What effect does the scripture have upon YOU?
2. There is no excuse for those who will not hear the Gospel.
  - "It's too early in my life, or I'm too busy, or what will my friends think, or I'm just not interested right now."
  - What would a loved one already in heaven have to sway?
    - "My reward isn't big enough, or I regret paying so much attention to the soul while I was on earth?"
  - What would one from Hell tell us?
    - "It isn't all that bad or don't bother with all that spiritual stuff."
  - Or would their message be the same as our text?
3. Those who have accepted the Gospel should be thankful.
  - Because of God and His Scriptures, they have been saved.
  - What can a saved one do in return?
  - Who do you know that is ignorant of the scriptures?
  - Who do you know that is ignoring the scriptures?
  - The dead can't return to speak to them, but YOU can!
  - The Christian is God's light to the lost, for the Christian knows the way.
5. The Christian is the only person who has experienced what obeying the Scriptures can mean.
  - So, Christian, go tell the rest of the world.