

IF THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE THE BIBLE...

Text: Luke 16:19-31

INTRO: Our text tells the story of two men who lived & died. The man who had fared sumptuously every day in this world awoke in a world of anguish. He was concerned lest his 5 brothers also reach the same destination. Abraham's words to him are as true today as they were then. Let us consider some lessons suggested by Abraham's words.

I. GOD'S WORD IS THE ONLY BASIS FOR TRUE FAITH.

READ ROMANS 10:13-17

- A. The rich man's brothers didn't need to see a miracle. They needed to believe the Scriptures.
- B. Likewise, it is not necessary for us to see a miracle. We simply need to believe the writings of the N.T. apostles and prophets. John 17:20; 20:30-31

II. THE O.T. & THE N.T. STAND OR FALL TOGETHER. IF A PERSON DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE OLD, HE CANNOT BELIEVE IN THE NEW. IF HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE NEW HE DOES NOT REALLY BELIEVE THE OLD.

- A. The Jews of Jesus' day would not have rejected Him if they had really believed the O.T. READ JOHN 5:39, 46-47.
- B. If we really believe what Jesus taught, we will believe what the O.T. says about creation, Noah & the flood, the crossing of the Red Sea, the story of Jonah & the sea monster, etc. Jesus & His apostles cited all these events Matt. 19:4; 24:37; 12:40; 1 Cor. 10:1-2.

III. THOSE NOT WILLING TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE, WOULD NOT BE PERSUADED IF ONE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

- A. O.T. prophets raised the dead & worked other miracles, yet they were unpopular, were persecuted & rejected by the majority of those to whom they spoke.
Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute?
And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers

and murderers. (Acts 7:52).

- B. Jesus, during His earthly ministry, raised several persons from the dead, but the religious leaders of His day refused Him, rejected & crucified Him.

READ JOHN 12:9-11

- C. Jesus' apostles were empowered to raise the dead & they did so on several occasions, yet far more people continued to reject their message than to accept it. The Bible records the death of James, & foretells that of Peter & Paul. History says that all the apostles were persecuted to the death except John, & he was exiled on the isle of Patmos for his faith.
- D. Jesus Himself did indeed rise from the dead, yet most of the people of that time & all times since then have ignored or rejected Him. Less than 8% of the world population makes any claim to believe in Jesus as the Christ.

IV. ARCHAEOLOGY, SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY, ETC., MIGHT CONVINCING A FEW TO GIVE HONEST CONSIDERATION TO THE BIBLE, BUT THOSE NOT WILLING TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE STILL WILL NOT BELIEVE.

- A. Though the scientific facts, properly understood, support what the Bible says about creation, the person who is not willing to believe the Bible is not likely to accept the arguments of creation scientists.
- B. Those who do not believe what Jesus taught in the Bible about heaven, hell, life after death, & the judgment to come, have already rejected One who came from the land beyond the grave. Neither would they be persuaded if one rose from the dead.
- C. If Lazarus had been sent from Abraham's bosom to the rich

man's brothers, they would not have believed. If the rich man himself had returned from the fires of torment, they would not have believed.

V. IF MEN DO NOT BELIEVE THE BIBLE, THEIR UNBELIEF WILL NOT CHANGE THE FACTS.

READ ROMANS 3:3-4

CONCLUSION: Whether you believe it or not, the word of God will judge you in the last day, John 12:48. Whether you believe it or not, hell will be just as hot and eternity will be just as long as the Bible depicts it to be. But by putting your trust & confidence in the teachings of Jesus, by repenting and being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, you can avoid hell & embrace all the glories of heaven forever.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 7, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 16, 1998