

## LIFTING DEATH'S VEIL (2)

BY KEITH GREER

**We can't serve two masters!** *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."* {Matthew 6:24} Sadly, the rich man learned this lesson too late. He was a son of Abraham, who, having been blessed with riches, had lived lavishly. Putting up spiritual treasures in heaven never entered his mind. When he had such an opportunity—to help the poor beggar, Lazarus—he did not take advantage of it. The rich man made the fatal mistake mentioned by James, *"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."* {James 4:4} If asked, he probably would have denied being God's enemy. His actions spoke louder than his words!

**The pride of life can't save.** *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."* {1 John 2:15-17} Great pomp and a wealthy station on this earth cannot purchase a person's salvation from God. Paul warned us to avoid being conformed to the world {Romans 12:1,2}. Because of his status in the eyes of those in the world, the rich man may have felt safe. God saw it from a different vantage point.

**Neglect condemns.** No one can deny that the rich man neglected many opportunities to help those less fortunate than himself. Later, that neglect haunted him! *"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."* {Galatians 6:9,10} Neglecting Lazarus, the beggar at his gate, is something the rich man died to regret. It's pretty easy to reject the poor while hoarding this world's riches for ourselves. However, salvation slowly slips through the fingers of those who have the *"love of money"* {1 Timothy 6:10}.

The **veil lifted**. Allow Jesus to help you see what is behind the veil:

1. **Saints not left alone.** God's people are not left alone. When we cross the proverbial Jordan, God will provide comfort and peace for the trip. {Hebrews 13:5}

2. Comfort for the weary. Death is a difficult journey. After their heartaches and pain, God comforts His saints in their final hours {1 Thessalonians 4:13-18}.

3. Physical death is not the end. Our lives do not end at the grave; there is something on the other side. One day, the bodies resting in peace will be resurrected, and we'll receive new bodies and a new heavenly habitation! Until then, there'll be peace.

4. We'll receive a royal welcome. Please read *Matthew 15:21*. There will be no more struggles and temptations; for once, we'll really be at peace with life's difficulties. Add to this the blessed assurance that our Lord will give us when we stand before Him on Judgment Day—” *Well done good and faithful servant—enter into the joys of thy Lord prepared for you before the foundation of the world!*”

To those who seek to do God's will, it is crystal clear that this life is a time to prepare for our departure. Do you want to end up like the rich man, or like Lazarus? It's a simple choice, isn't it? It is easy to understand but more difficult to properly apply. \*\*\*