



Front Cover

Let's Reconsider Reincarnation

by David Lusk

If reincarnation is correct, this is how you got into this world:

This body arises from sexual intercourse. It passes to development in darkness. Then, it comes forth through the urinary opening. It is built up with bones; smeared over with flesh, covered with skin; filled with feces, urine, phlegm, marrow, fat, grease, and also with many diseases.¹

If the Bible is correct we have a conflict, for it differs from the above account, saying:

"For You [God] formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:13-14).

Can you see the conflict? People have tried to reconcile the two, but Hinduism and Christianity are not alike. They disagree in how we were formed to enter this world, and they disagree over what happens to us in death as we leave it.

Hinduism says we come into this new world burdened with "karma"—the just punishment of an old, past life. Here on earth we must pay for the sins and mistakes we made in forgotten lives long ago. At death, we leave our bodies to be reincarnated into another body to live another life, repeating the process hundreds of times. Hindus teach that the repetition continues until we purify ourselves to perfection—thus obliterating the personality. Then, we get off the wheel of life and go to Nirvana—the nothingness of total annihilation.

Christianity disagrees. The Bible teaches that God places a brand new soul in a new body at conception as a sparkling, brand new thing. We pass through life only once, and while here, we live life as best we can, following the example of Jesus. We follow the command God gave us in the Bible.

¹Swami Prabbavananda & Frederick Manchester, The Upanishads, Breath Of The Eternal New York: Pantheon, 1957), 56.

At death, we leave our bodies to return to that loving God who judges us for our deeds. The righteous are granted a wonderful place called heaven—the eternal paradise of the soul where only wondrous love, joy, and peace abide.² Such is the Christian teaching.

So, which is correct? Do we go through life once, and then go to judgment as the Bible teaches?³ Or, do we go around again and again in many lives, trying to right our wrongs, as the Hindu Vedas teach?

The Claim of Reincarnation

On the surface, the doctrine of reincarnation sounds most appealing. It seems an honest attempt to answer the problem of "God's relationship to evil." How could a good God allow innocent people to suffer? When I am suffering, reincarnation does a good job of answering my questions: "Why?" or "Why me?" This is why people find it appealing.

What does reincarnation say? It claims that a soul living in the world can do good or bad as it chooses. If that personality chooses to do evil in his life, he does not die and return to God. There is no judgment and no hell for the wicked. The person enters death with the "seeds of new life" in his grasp.

In that mystical world between the old life and the new, the soul meets the natural law of the universe called "Karma." Karma imposes punishment upon the soul for the sins of that last life. The evil that the person did is noted, and he prepares to begin paying for it in his upcoming life. Perhaps he doesn't pay all at once, but somewhere in this process of going round and round on the wheel of life—one reincarnation after another—he has to suffer for his old wrongs, purging the wrongs, even if he doesn't remember them.

The Hindus say that a man is "working out his karma" when he faces disease, birth defects, misery, pain, and injustice in this life. That person suffers alone with his fate until the old karma is exhausted. The sufferer keeps dying and coming back again and

²Ecclesiastes 12:7

³Hebrews 9:27

again and again. Each time he burns off (pays for) more karma. The next lives are filled with less and less misery until he perfects himself and is merged into nothingness.

That nothingness is called "Nirvana"—the dissolution of the personality. In reincarnation, that is the goal of life: to extinguish the personality completely and forever.

So that is the reason you have misery in this life—you did some evil in a past life. That is an easy answer. It sounds good, and at first, seems to satisfy. But now we have to ask, "Is it true?" Is reincarnation the factual answer? Something that is right is not always easy; and something that is easy is not always right.

One day years ago as a young child, I was hungry. I saw some food that looked good to me. It was near at hand and met my needs at the moment, so I ate it. It went down easy, and seemed to satisfy. An hour later, however, I was sorry I had eaten it. There was something wrong with the food. The next two days I was forced to take horrible tasting medicine to keep my stomach calm.

The same is true with reincarnation. It seems like a good answer. It is easy to swallow and, at first, makes sense. but later, we find ourselves having to swallow more and more silly and bitter things just to justify what we have already ingested. When that happens, we have to conclude that the teaching is bad.

A Personal Quest

This writer is a Christian. I believe the Bible's message that Jesus Christ is God's son and He forever answered the reincarnation question. However, I am also curious. My study of "life after death" has been life-long. I did not merely search the Bible. I have read the Bhagavad-Gita with great interest, and studied the writings of people both for and against reincarnation. The view of "reincarnation" held by Hindus and Buddhists sounded enticing. It has the easiest answers.

After studying it, I have concluded that, if reincarnation is correct, it is fine to be a Christian. Even if it is wrong, Christianity is a good life—much more disciplined than the way

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of the worldly. It will take one higher on the process of reincarnation.

But, if reincarnation is wrong, it is a very, very dangerous doctrine. Let me show you why with this story.

Captain Lang Smith of Canada had dreamed for years of sailing alone around the world. Months had been spent in final preparations. His 11 1/2 foot sailboat had been checked and double checked. The sails were new and tested. The captain had new maps and the finest compass.

Just south of Vancouver, British Columbia, Smith cast off for his 50,000 mile journey. He planned on it taking him two and a half years. His thought, "Nothing can stop me now. I'm on my way to adventure." Smith was half right. It was going to be an adventure. He was 55 miles out when he hit a submerged log. His boat sank and his plans were ruined.

The same kind of disappointment is facing millions of devotees of reincarnation. If we plan on re-living hundreds of lives, but due to find that there is no reincarnation, our one life is wasted and our souls are doomed. If we plan for 50,000 lives in reincarnation, but discover on death that our journey is over, what a shock that will be! What a deadly mistake!

If the Bible is true, "it is appointed unto man once to die and after that, the judgment."⁴ I would be very unwise to waste this one life thinking I have the promise of many more lives and opportunities.

Thus, in giving it serious and sober thought, I have concluded that not only is reincarnation **wrong**, it has to be said even stronger: **it cannot be correct**. I say that for the following reasons:

I. Reincarnation is Unworkable

The goal of reincarnation is to work off all bad karma until the "sound of silence," the principal state of the universe, returns once more.

⁴Hebrews 9:17

But there is a problem here. To believe that souls are working off their bad karma and gathering good karma assumes that people are learning and improving. Things are getting better and each succeeding life is more enriched. By every rotation of the wheel, souls are getting closer to Nirvana. That is false.

To forever disprove that theory, all we have to do is visit India. That is the nation where reincarnation has been taught so forcefully for the longest period of time. There is where bad karma has been worked off and good karma has been building for centuries. Millions of people should be living easier and easier lives as they climb to higher life forms. Are they? No. India bears tragic witness to the failure of such a philosophy.

Instead of being a glowing light for the world, India agonizes in rampant poverty, starvation, suffering, and chaos. Its suffering increases daily. Millions of poor souls quietly despair and prepare to die, hoping that something better will be found in the next life.

Hindu followers defend the failure of India. They say that we should not "equate reincarnation with the progress." They argue that reincarnation "only provides the opportunity for progress."⁵

That is disappointing. The very religion that calls for progress toward Nirvana does not guarantee progress? Why? Because there is no incentive to improve.

One cannot improve on a mistake he can't remember. If a person doesn't have any recollection of his past in the next life, he has no reason whatever to improve. Reincarnation sends you around again and again, but teaches you nothing. You remember nothing and improve none at all.⁶

Also, if you believe you are going around again and again, there is no motivation to change or improve anything right now. Generations come and go without progression in such a system.

⁵Joseph Head and S.L. Cranston, Reincarnation (New York: Julian Press, 1961), 224.

⁶To answer this dilemma, modern Western Followers of Hinduism and "New Age" teachings have claimed "Pre-life-experiences" brought out in hypnotic trances.

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That is why the social order of most Hindu nations is below standard. The poor and uneducated languish in misery generation after generation.⁷

Karma can work only if people are getting better, and the truth is, people are not. If I do evil in life number one, I must pay for my bad karma when I reincarnate. But if, in life number two, do more wickedness when I am supposed to be burning off the bad from my first life—then I have to pay for that new evil in life number three. But there I do more wickedness "the cycle is endless and degenerates as it turns. I get further and further away from perfection; not closer.

In a world that is dominated by suffering, ignorance, and evil, bad karma is growing larger, not going away.

II. Reincarnation is illogical

One young man proudly announced to an older man, "I am a firm believer in reincarnation. It has all the answers for me." "Really?" asked the older man. "Tell me about it so I can believe it, too. How many times have you been reincarnated?"

"Uh, I don't know," stammered the youth.

"What were you before you got to this point?"

"I don't know."

"What will you be next time?"

"I don't know."

"How many times must you go around before you are perfected?"

"I don't know."

⁷Recent studies show that discoveries in genetics in India are gradually destroying the Karmic explanation of birth defects. As mothers discover the importance of pre-natal care, birth defects are decreasing. This causes a dilemma. If education and medicine can change misery into joy for millions, it nullifies the effects of Karma as a "law."

"Where can you go to get the answers?"

"I don't know."

"Then how can you say it has all the answers?" asked the older man. "It doesn't have any answers."

I will just stay with the Bible. Its truth is clear, plain, and invites investigation. It has all the answers for everyone.

In reincarnation there are no answers. Where is the proof? The explanations that it offers us are totally lacking. The brain just cannot logically accept some of the things it teaches.

For example, reincarnationists teach:

1. That the world's population is basically stable. One Hindu writer said, "As one dies, another is born to take his place."
2. Even when war or natural disaster reduce the population in one one place, other places are experiencing prosperity and population growth. Thus overall, the world's population remains stable.
3. There will, therefore, always be just enough souls to be reborn into all infant bodies, for there is a corresponding number of deaths and births.
4. The human soul is not created but is eternal. Thus, not new souls are being created to enter the cycle of rebirths.
5. When a soul is sufficiently purified, it is absorbed back into "being," out of our world into Nirvana.⁸

The problem in such teaching are obvious. First, if no new souls are being created, yet a number of old souls are being absorbed back into "being," it should follow that the world population is decreasing. That is not true.

Instead, there are more people alive in this present generation than in any previous one.

⁸Robert A. Morey, Reincarnation and Christianity, Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1980), 37.

If you don't believe that the population is increasing, consider the following statistics of growth in the world:

A.D. 1575 500 million people
A.D. 1825 1 billion people
A.D. 1925 2 billion people
A.D. 1975 Almost 4 billion people⁹

Second, since the world's population is increasing so rapidly, it is obvious that there are not enough souls to fit these new bodies. Where are they coming from? Does that mean that there are bodies walking around with no souls?

To answer this dilemma, many Hindu devotees claim that karma is changing—send the needed souls up from insects and animals, evolving them into humans. They agree the world has more humans today, but claim we have less insects. However, that is not true, either. And, even if it were, why should the law of karma change to accommodate the need for extra souls? And, if karma changed, it cannot be a law at all. Personalities change; laws don't.

III. Reincarnation is Unjust

A mother brought her son to school for the first day of instruction. She went to the headmaster and said, "My son John is very shy, so if he misbehaves, just slap the student next to him, and John will learn his lesson and behave."

Everybody knows that her suggestion is silly. Such could not be practiced because it is unjust. John has to face his own mistakes and take his own discipline.

That is a huge problem with reincarnation: it is unjust.

Adolph Hitler ordered the death of at least six million Jews in his lifetime. It could be said that he was responsible for the deaths of 60 million people all over the world; not to mention the evil he inflicted on those who survived. When he died in 1945, can you imagine the karma built up against him? Perhaps he has 60

⁹McEvedz and Jones, Atlas of World Population History, (New York: Penguin, 1978), 350.

million reincarnations of suffering to go through before getting back to where he was before he killed the Jews or started World War II.

Let's assume that in 1960, after a few short lives as a bug, a snake, three mice, and a dog, Hitler is reincarnated as a crippled baby girl in New York City named Ruth Jones. Ruth has no idea that she is really Adolph Hitler reincarnated, or that she is suffering for the crimes of the Nazi Fuhrer.

It is at this point that karma justice breaks down completely. Hitler is gone, and his personality actually ceased to exist in 1945. Little Ruth now bears the massive burden of Hitler's karmic debt. She did nothing wrong, but karma strikes her anyway.

Little Ruth is only the first in a series of 60 million miserable lives spawned by the evil of Hitler. Ruth has to die in distress to let the next body pay for more karma. Now, Hitler has altered the lives—not of just 60 million who died in the war, but 60 million reincarnated people who are paying for the past deed of their predecessors.

We are up to 120 million people now, and that is not even considering the sins committed by these 120 million that they must pay for later. And where is Hitler in all this? He hasn't paid for anything. Do you begin to see the injustice?

Reincarnation says that, in life, each of us is responsible for our own actions. Yet, we are not. In death, the personality is extinguished and a new personality comes back into the world to pay the burden of karma. The new personality knows nothing, but has to pay for everything. This is unjust.

Here is Ruth—the poor child with a horrible defect that will limit or shorten her life. Let's go into her room. We walk over to the bed where she lies. We look at her and then at her mother suffering along with Ruth. We offer a good word of comfort: "This child is working off Hitler's karma." Ruth has no chance because she cannot do any good or evil. Ruth dies totally unjust. But enough about the evil man. What about the righteous man? His lot in life is also unjust.

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Consider Rasheeb, a Hindu who gives himself totally to righteousness. He is promised in the Bhagavad-Gita:

For one who worships Me, giving up all his activities unto Me and being devoted to Me without deviation, engaged in devotional service and always meditating upon Me, who has fixed his mind upon me, O son of Prtha, for him I am the swift deliverer from the ocean of birth and death. Just fix your mind upon Me, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and engage all your intelligence in Me. Thus you will live in Me always, without a doubt (12:6-8).

The problem is this: Rasheeb dies. Between one life and the next, every single observable characteristic that defines Rasheeb is destroyed. When he is reincarnated to the next life, the next body and mind reaps the reward. What good did it do the righteous Rasheeb if only a blank mind and soul comes into the world again to enjoy the good karma of the past?

If reincarnation is really karma, or the "law of justice," why not give the person a full vision of what he has done in his past life? That would be justice. Let him remember his good deeds and his flaws in his past life. Thus, he could both understand his predicament and correct his life for the future.

IV. Grace Destroys Reincarnation

Almost every Hindu I have ever met has told me, "I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe the same things you do." Of course, he doesn't understand the difference in his religion and mine, so he is willing to include Jesus in his collection of *avatars* or Lords.¹⁰ But, for a moment, let's agree that he is right. We believe in the same Christ.

¹⁰*Avatars* are said to be "mini-incarnations" that arrive from time to time in the form of holy men. Jesus is seen as one of them. Buddha and Mohammed are others. The Hindu teacher, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada says, "It is not a fact that the Lord appears only on Indian soil. He can advent himself anywhere and every where, and whenever he desires to appear. In each and every incarnation, he speaks as much about religion as can be understood by the particular people under their particular circumstances. But the mission is the same—to lead people to God consciousness and obedience in the principles of religion."

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If he agrees that Jesus is truly the Christ—the anointed one sent by God, then finally, reincarnation for him is finished. Why? Because Jesus died to save him and make him perfect before God. He has gone his last round on the wheel of life, and he has been perfected! He has no more work to do. If he is perfected by the blood of Jesus, never again will he be reincarnated for there is no need. He can go from this life into eternal rest.

This should be great news to a Hindu, for he has been going from one reincarnation to the next seeking perfection. He has been trying, in each life, to purify the bad karma and to collect enough good karma to get off the wheel and find Nirvana.

Well, here is the good news: if he turns to Christ and believes what Jesus taught, he will have discovered the very key he has been seeking. What He offers is called "Grace," the word means "unearned favor", and God's grace helps him to spiritual maturity.

When Jesus went to the cross, He died as a substitute.¹¹ He was sinless, but He died in your place; taking the punishment you deserved.¹² He did it so that God could take your "bad karma" and put it on Him, and so Jesus could pay for it once and for all.¹³ From that point on, you are to "walk in the light as He is in the light ..." (I John 1:7).

The process is called "Justification." Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we are all "declared by God to be righteous." When we are baptized into Christ, our sins are washed away. We go to our God redeemed, saved, and happy provided we live faithfully unto death.

V. Reincarnation Destroys Grace

Those of us who have been saved by this wonderful grace of God, are taught immediately to show the same grace, undeserved kindness, to others around us. By doing so, we make this world a better place in which to live by showering our path

¹¹Isaiah 53:6

¹²II Corinthians 5:21

¹³Romans 3:23–28

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with sweetness and goodness.¹⁴ If there is one who is suffering, we must comfort and help him.¹⁵

But, in the view of reincarnationists, such kindness should not be practiced. The people who are suffering in this world are “working off their karma.” Whatever suffering they experience in this life is due to the evil of a past life. They deserve their fate. This is based on the Hindu concept of *Dharma* which may be roughly translated, “the inevitability of what must be,” or “doing what is set before you.”

So, what about being kind and helping that poor, suffering soul? Why not feed that hungry man? Why not clothe the naked or heal the sick? Because it is wrong to disturb the process of karma. That poor fellow has to pay for his evil some day, so let him suffer in silence now. Helping him is not wise. In fact, interrupting his karma could be a sin that you yourself will pay for in the next life.

Let's go even one step farther: have you ever thought that it might be a *good* thing, under the system of reincarnation, to murder, rape, steal, and abuse others? Why not? You are merely purifying the bad karma in the people you victimize. They deserved what you are doing to them. In fact, they need for you to be vicious toward them if they are going to go on in the evolution process. Karma might even reward you for carrying out upon them the pain they deserved!

If that is true, Hitler should be thanked for his evil; and so should every rapist or murderer in the world! Do you see what I meant earlier about “bad food that seems good?”

¹⁴Luke 6:35: “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”

¹⁵Acts 20:35: “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

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And that suggestion is not so far fetched. For centuries, the rich Hindus have reveled in splendor while the poor go without. There is no compassion or kindness

in such a system. The rich deserve their wealth and the poor deserve their misery. You can search the entire world and you will not find a Hindu orphan's home or a Hindu hospital. The system doesn't work on the basis of kindness.

The Christian looks at this situation in disgust. Jesus Christ came to this world teaching and practicing the very opposite of that. He said to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help the poor (Matthew 25:34–40). His followers were taught to be kind to everyone.

Romans 15:1–2: "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification."

Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:10: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

VI. Reincarnation is Not Vital

A Christian was studying with a Hindu a few years ago in Guyana. As they discussed the two religions, the Christian asked, "What difference does your religion make?"

"What do you mean?" asked the Hindu.

"Well," answered the Christian, "if your religion had never existed, how different would the world be? If you discovered today that your religion had totally disappeared—that you and no one else believed it any more; what difference would it make?"

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The Hindu thought for awhile and then admitted, "It wouldn't make a bit of difference." If there is nothing "out there" beyond the grave except another reincarnation, all the rotations of all the souls in all of the history of the world do not matter one whit. The earth is no better, no soul is saved, and no good is done.

Christianity, on the other hand, is vital. If correct, and it is, the message of Jesus Christ is crucial to know and follow.¹⁶ If you do not hear, heed, and obey this message from God, the Bible says you are lost.

This truth is illustrated in the story of the man and his wife who purchased a Bible and took it home to read. After reading the first portion, the man looked at his wife and said, "Wife, this book is correct, there is a God who loves us."

After a few more nights reading, the man looked at his wife again and said, "If this book is correct, there is a Devil who has deceived us." The next night, he said, "if

this book is correct, we are lost." The next night he said, "Wife, if this book is correct, we can be saved." And they were.

Do you need the Bible message? Yes! You can't live without it!

VII. Reincarnation is Not Pleasing

People who choose to believe in reincarnation usually do so because they don't like the concept of a hell for the wicked. They would much rather think of going through another life, and making good their old mistakes. A person would much rather meet himself than his maker on the other side of death.

In choosing reincarnation, people never stop to think what a lifeless and sterile thing it is, both in life and in death. For example, reincarnationists in the West love to tell of their

¹⁶Acts 4:12: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

"past lives"—how they were Joan of Arc or Mohammed or Abraham Lincoln. It is strange that none of them ever recall being a worm in a garden or a snail on a rock.

If reincarnation is true, then that is what some of them were—or what they soon may be. Depending upon their bad karma, they could be a mule as easily as a man. They could as easily be a hog as a human.

Then, consider the undesirable death of reincarnation. Even if we work off the bad karma and purify our souls completely, what do we receive? The Hindu's reward is nothingness—extinction in Nirvana. The devotee has successfully annihilated his personality and sinks into oblivion.

So, here is something strange—think carefully about this: Nirvana has sometimes been described as "The further shore, the harbor of refuge, the cool cave, the matchless island, the holy city. It is sheer bliss."¹⁷

But, for what? We have already annihilated our personalities in purifying ourselves of bad karma. So, what use have our souls of such a wonderful place? How can an obliterated personality enjoy sheer bliss?

Author John Weldon said, "There is only one thing that makes a future life worthwhile—that is the preservation of the consciousness" personal identity and uniqueness. Yet, in reincarnation, [such things] are forever obliterated."¹⁸

How is it possible to draw meaning from life, if the goal of existence is to slowly annihilate personality? The Christian, on the other hand, is promised heaven—that glorious place of joy,

¹⁷J.D.N. Anderson, Christianity and Comparative Religion, (Downers Grove, Ill., Intervarsity Press, 1975, 59.

¹⁸John Weldon, A Billion People's View of Reality (Berkley manuscript, 1979.

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peace and rest, prepared for the faithful by God Himself.¹⁹ The conscious soul goes there to enjoy glory forever. That is reasonable and full of happiness and hope. A rational person would rather have the holy happiness of heaven than the nothingness of Nirvana

The Conclusion We Must Draw

After studying it, we find that reincarnation does not answer the question of pain and suffering in this world. It merely points to a foggy past as a cause for it. But what suffering in that past? Another past even further back in the fog.

So, reincarnation claims that there is no personal God out there beyond time. There is merely karma—a law of the universe. It claims there is no judgment. No one answers to anyone. You end this life merely to begin again in a lower or higher life, depending on your karmic debt. Christians say, "That's not true!"

So, how can we know that is right? The only way we can know the truth of the matter is to find someone—anyone that has been through death and has come back to tell about it. That "someone" is Jesus Christ. He is the only one who ever has.

Historians admit that Jesus was nailed to a cross and, a few hours later, he was taken down dead. He was laid in a tomb as a dead man, but the Bible says that, on the third day, He was resurrected from the grave.²⁰ In Revelation 1:17–18, we read of the resurrected Christ: "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He, who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. amen. and I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

¹⁹John 14:1–3: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

²⁰In Revelation 1:17–18, we read of the

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Here, then, is the only one who went into the cold grave to do battle with death. He came back victorious. This is a proven fact! He has a right to speak, for He knows what is on the other side. So, what does He say about life after death? He said things like: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Again, He said: "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves 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 condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (John 5:21–30).

He also told the interesting story of a wicked rich man and a good, but poor man²¹ both died and were taken into a waiting

²¹Read Luke 16:19 and following.

place for the dead. The evil man lifted up his eyes being in torment, but the good man was placed in a secure and comfortable place. There, they were to wait for the judgment that was coming upon all people. I believe Jesus was speaking of what He knew. Do you believe Him?

When the day of judgment arrives, the living and the dead will be gathered before the great white throne.²² Everyone will give an account of his deeds, whether good or bad.²³ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world' " (Matthew 25:34).

You get one chance, my friend. I beg you to live your life in view of eternity. You will face your God one day to answer for your deeds. There is not just some "force of law" out beyond the grave—there is one true and living God. He hopes you will

be wise and make ready for that great day called "Judgment." There is a song many Christians sing. Part of it goes like this:

There's a great day coming
A great day coming,
There's a great day coming by and by,
When the saints and sinners
Shall be parted right and left.
Are you ready for that day to come?

An Invitation

If Jesus has been through it; and if He testifies that there is no reincarnation, I beg you to believe Him. He is the only one who can save you and get you safely home to heaven. His sweet message to you is this:

²²Revelations 20:10-15

²³II Corinthians 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

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"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my Yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

If you accept Him as Lord and Savior, please obey His Gospel.²⁴ Seek out a local congregation of the Church of Christ. Those Christians will help you find the true path to eternal life—the path that leads to your eternal home.

II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

²⁴Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16

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