

SOUL TO SHEOL

Today's lesson is the second of three Easter Specials.

- Tuesday's lesson emphasized the importance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ as part of the gospel.
- Wednesday's lesson will emphasize the importance of the burial of Jesus Christ as part of the gospel.
- Sunday's lesson will emphasize the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ as part of the gospel.

(1 Cor.15:3-4) "For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

**Today's lesson, Soul to Sheol,
will distinguish between the burial of the body of Jesus and the burial of His soul.**

1. Peter made this distinction in part of his Pentecost sermon of Acts 2. Our lesson text comes from this part of Peter's sermon (Acts 2:22-36).

We will examine our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

- Jesus, a man attested (apodeiknumi) [to point out or exhibit, approved] to you by God (Acts 2:22) [messianic ministry]
- Jesus, a man delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God (Acts 2:23) [crucified]
- Jesus, a man raised up by God (Acts 2:24) [raised from death]
- Jesus, a Messiah prophesied by David (Acts 2:25-31) [burial and resurrection]
- Jesus, a Savior raised up by God (Acts 2:32-36) [resurrection and ascension]

This prophecy of David involved the burial and resurrection of Christ:

(Acts 2:25-32) "Because You will not abandon My soul to Hades (LXX but Sheol in Hebrew), nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay." (Acts 2:27; Ps.16:8-11)

2. At the time of the physical death of Jesus Christ, His humanity had a trichotomous departure.

- **His body** went to the tomb of Joseph (Matt.27:57-61; Isa.53:9; John 19:41).
- **His spirit** returned to the Father of spirits (Heb.12:9) (Luke 23:46; Ps.31:5; John 19:30).
- **His soul** went to Hades or Sheol for three days and nights (Acts 2:27, 31; Ps.16:10; 13:34-37; Rom.10:7)
 - Location of Hades (Matt.12:40; Eph.4:9; Ps.68:18; Phil.2:10)

Jesus was abandoned on the cross by God, but not in His burial (Matt.27:46; Ps.16; 10; **Acts 2:27, 31; 13:35; 1 Cor.15:4**).

3. **A three-day burial in Hades was a well established doctrine before Jesus was raised from the dead (Matt.12:40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 27:62-63).**

- **Court** Mark 14:55-59
- **Crowd** Mark 15:29; Matt.27:40
- **Chief priest** Matt.27:62-64; John 2:19-22

This three-day burial and then resurrection would be His final messianic sign to Israel until the Second Coming (Matt.12:38-40) [first messianic sign] (Isa.7:14).

4. **Jesus Christ completed a four-fold mission during His three-day burial.**

- **His first mission** was to go with a highly exalted name above every name in heaven, on earth, and under the earth (Phil.2:8-11).
- **His second mission** was to keep His appointment with the thief on the cross (Luke 23:43).
- **His third mission** was to give an official proclamation to the fallen angels of Gen.6 (1 Pet.3:19; 2 pet.2:4; Jude 24).
- **His fourth mission** was to shut down the Paradise of Hades and to open up the Paradise of Heaven for believers (Luke 16:22-26; John 14:1-3) (2 Cor.5:6-78; 12:1-4; Phil.1:23) (Rev.1:18; 20:1).

5. **The three-day burial and the soul of Jesus in Sheol was an important part of the gospel of grace salvation (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)**

(1 Cor.15:4b) “And that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

(John 2:19-20) “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Therefore at physical death, the believer goes from spiritual life to spiritual life while the unbeliever goes from spiritual death to spiritual death (Phil.1:21-23) (Rom.5:12, 24; Rev.2:11; 20:14-15).

The burial-resurrection of Jesus Christ establishes the church age doctrine of positional truth based on the baptism of Holy Spirit (Matt.3:11; Acts 1:5; 2:33; Rom.6:3-4; 8:11; 1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:27).

(Rom.6:4) “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Thus the believer has been transferred from a position **in Adam** to a position **in Christ** by the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the moment to grace salvation (1 Cor.15:22, 45).

It is 1 of 8 works of the Holy Spirit of salvation in the church age.

(1 Cor.12:13) “For by one Spirit we were ALL baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were ALL made to drink of one Spirit.”