

# FIVE MINUTES AFTER DEATH

## INTRODUCTION

Death comes every day to someone, and someday to everyone, but of no concern if there is no life beyond the grave. Epicurus, a Greek philosopher of around 300 B.C. once said, "While I am, death is not; and when death is, I am not. Therefore, death is of no concern to me." He thought death was the end of one's existence, so there was no reason to give it a moment's thought. Epicurus surely knows differently now. JOB writes some provoking words in Job 14:1,14 (read). When was the last time YOU thought about eternity? Have you ever wondered what it will be like five minutes after death? While not every question is answered, the curtain has been pulled back a little, to give us a glimpse of eternity. (Summarize Luke 16:19-31).

## DISCUSSION

### **Five Minutes After Death:**

#### **1. You will be Conscious in Another Realm.**

1. Rich man could see Abraham & Lazarus (v.23) – no such perception would be possible without consciousness.
2. Rich man & Lazarus could feel & sense surroundings. (v.24-25)
3. Rich man could communicate with Abraham. (v.24)
4. When contemplating the plight of his brothers, felt emotion. (v.24)
5. Rich man could reason (v. 30), faulty but existent.

#### **2. You will know your eternal fate.**

1. You won't have to wait until the judgment.
2. If so, why have the Judgment?
  - a. To reveal eternal destinies to those alive at 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
  - b. To reveal why eternal destinies are what they are. (Matt.25:41ff)
  - c. To convince some as to why their destinies are such. (Matt. 7:21-23; Jude 14,15)
  - d. To announced final sentence and transfer souls to their proper place. (Matt.25:46; 2 Cor. 5:12,13)

#### **3. You will Recognize Others.**

1. Rich man knew who Abraham was, though had probably never met him.
2. Peter and John recognized Moses and Elijah. (Matt. 17:1-8)
3. Though some earthly relationships are not carried through into eternity, our individuality & identities remain. (Matt. 22:30)

#### **4. You will Remember.**

1. Abraham said to the rich man, "Son, remember..."(Luke 16:25)
2. Rich man remembers his five living brothers & their spiritual condition. (vs. 27,28)
3. Souls of martyred saints recalled how they died and who was responsible. (Rev. 6:9-11).
4. Some will remember what they **did** in life. (Matt. 7:21,22)
5. No passage teaches that we will be watching the unfolding of history after death, but we will recall conditions as we left.

## CONCLUSION

The living know they will die (Eccl.9:5,6). In view of this fact, Christian be excited (for you are in God's hands—no better place to be.) Non-Christian, be warned (you are in God's hands, too (Heb. 10:3)1. A tombstone in an Indiana cemetery has some choice words inscribed on the back, which says, "Pause, Stranger, when you pass by, As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be. So prepare for death and follow me." Some unknown passerby read those words, and wrote the following words: "To follow you I'm not content, Until I know which way you went." **EXHORTATION.**

