



Rest Peace—RIP

When a person passes on to the next life, we say things I like, "Rest in peace," but do people truly rest in peace? The answer is yes and no. Contrary to popular beliefs, not everyone rests in peace. Even more, not everyone rests. John 11. Jesus said that He is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe on Him although they die and leave this present world will get live again.

To Rest in peace, one has to know Jesus. One has to believe on Jesus as their personal LORD and Savior. Until we do that, we won't rest in peace.

For Instance, Hitler is not resting—nor is he resting in peace unless he accepted Jesus before he died. Although some people lived a life that was good to many, If they never believed on Jesus, they are not resting in peace.

When a person dies, they do not cease to exist. What happens is that they continue to live in another place; either in Heaven (presence of God) or Hell (absence of God). It is only those who have accepted Jesus while still alive that will rest indeed rest—and rest in peace. There is no peace and no rest outside the presence of God.

Luke 16:19-30 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that **would come** from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him,

If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Notice:

- a) Two people that died (The rich man and Lazarus the beggar), yet they did not cease to exist. They were also in two separate places.
 - i) Death is not ceasing to exist. It is entering into eternity. When a person dies, he/she does not cease to exist but continue existing elsewhere.
 - ii) You have to decide where you want to spend eternity. Your life is on the line.
- b) Which of the two was "Resting in peace."? It is Lazarus, not the rich man. It is evident enough that the rich man was not resting, nor was he in peace. He was in hell and torment while Lazarus was chilling and resting in Abraham's bosom.
 - i) Jesus is the prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6). No Jesus, no peace. No Jesus, no rest (Matthew 11:8).
- c) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that **would come** from thence
 - i) There was a great gulf fixed (chasm) between them meaning there was no change of destination. One could not cross over from one to another. The rich man was not going to have another opportunity to change his mind.
 - ii) The rich man had his chance to determine his eternal destination only when he was alive, not after he had passed.
 - iii) This man did not get a second chance. He had more than second chances when he was alive.
- d) This is not teaching that rich people will go to hell. This is rather teaching that those who reject the Lord have no relationship with Him will spend eternity apart from Him—rich or poor. This rich man had been trusting in his goodness rejecting the Lord and relationship with Him.
 - i) Teaching that the rich will go to hell is error. If that is true, Abraham should have been in hell as well because he was rich (Genesis 13:2), yet not Abraham alone, but many other patriarchs of the faith such as Isaac (Genesis 26:13) and Jacob (Genesis 30:43), don't forget Solomon and King David to name but a few.

- ii) It is not the possession of things that people have that determines their eternal destiny, but in whom or what they have put their faith—in their possession, in themselves or in Jesus.

A prayer at the funeral doesn't change anything. It's a show, it's useless. It does not change a person's destiny or eternity.

God loved us so much that He came and died for us so that we can enter into a relationship with Him that has a benefit of spending eternity with Him in His presence. No one should have to spend eternity apart from Him. He wants to have a relationship with you that has benefits with it such as eternity with Him.

In conclusion, if you want to rest in peace you have to start now. You have to believe on Jesus as your LORD and savior that He died on the cross for your sins and rose again from the dead.