> In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’
>
> *— Luke 16:23-24*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: hell, death, heaven

Interpretation:
In *Luke 16:23-24*, *Jesus* tells the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, a gripping and heartbreaking story that teaches us important lessons about life and death. In short, the rich man lived in luxury while Lazarus, a beggar, lay at his door.

After their deaths, the rich man went to the place of torment while Lazarus was carried to Abraham’s bosom. In the midst of his torment, the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to help him and ease his suffering, but it was too late.

The importance of showing compassion in life

In this parable, we see that the rich man showed no compassion or mercy to Lazarus while they were on earth. He lived in luxury and comfort, oblivious to the man standing on the other side of his door. This is a reminder to everyone of the importance of showing kindness and compassion to others, especially those who are less fortunate. By doing so, we can find grace and favor in the eyes of God.

The reality of life after death

The parable has an important message about life after death. *Jesus* teaches us that this life on earth is temporary and that we all face the Last Judgment. In this parable, we see how the rich man was unable to take his wealth with him into the afterlife and suffered the consequences of his selfishness and lack of compassion. This reminds us to live a life focused on loving God and others, rather than on accumulating wealth and material possessions.

The power of prayers and the importance of repentance

The rich man repented and begged Abraham to help him in his afterlife torment, but it was too late. However, this teaches us the power of prayer and the importance of repentance. God calls us all to repent and seek His forgiveness while we are alive, for there is no room for repentance and redemption in death.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
> *— Matthew 10:28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: hell, body, death, fear, soul

Interpretation:
This verse challenges us to consider the importance of our souls and the afterlife. *Jesus* teaches about evangelism and the importance of spreading God's word, making it clear that the disciples may face many obstacles and dangers in their work. Despite all this, He emphasizes that we should not fear those who can harm us physically, but rather fear the One Who can destroy our soul and body in hell.

Do not fear those who kill the body

Fear is an emotion common to all humans, and it often manifests itself in the face of danger. In His instructions, Jesus does not encourage us to be reckless and recklessly expose ourselves to dangerous situations, but rather to remember the brevity of this temporary life and that the most important thing is our soul.

In this sense, we should not fear those who can harm us physically, since the circumstances of our earthly life are beyond our control. While it is important to take safety precautions to protect our physical integrity, we must not allow fear to keep us from doing the work God has for us to do.

Fear Him Who can destroy soul and body in hell

Jesus speaks of God having the power to condemn us to hell if we break His commandments. The idea of eternal damnation is difficult to understand, but the Bible shows us that hell is a real place of

suffering, pain, and torment.

It is important to emphasize that God does not desire to condemn anyone to hell, but desires for everyone to repent of their sins and receive eternal life. Therefore, we must fear God, understanding this as respect and reverence for Him as the Creator and Supreme Judge, and keep His commandments, knowing that He has the power to destroy both soul and body in hell.

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> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.
> — *Matthew 16:18*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: hell, Church, community

Interpretation:
In Matthew 16, *Jesus* encounters His disciples as they pass through the area around Caesarea Philippi. He asks them who they think He is. *Peter*, filled with deep faith and conviction, replies, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16)*.

Jesus acknowledges the importance of this statement by declaring that this revelation did not come from human flesh and blood, but from *the Father in heaven*. It is at this point that Jesus tells Peter, *"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."*

Peter as a rock

This statement by Jesus has been the source of controversy and disagreement throughout Church history. Some have interpreted it to mean that Jesus was speaking of Peter as the rock upon which the Church would be built.

However, others have argued that the "rock" Jesus refers to is Peter's confession of faith, and that Jesus is indicating that the Church will be built upon the truth of his confession.

The Church of Jesus

Regardless of the precise interpretation, this passage emphasizes the importance of the Church of Jesus and its foundation in the supernatural truth of divine revelation. Through His Church, Jesus provides saving grace to all the nations of the world, and the “gates of hell” will never prevail against it.

This verse also serves as a reminder that the Church belongs to Jesus, not to anyone who has authority over it. Its foundation in divine truth makes it stable and able to withstand the ravages of time and history.

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> If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
> *— Matthew 5:29*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: hell, body, desires, sin

Interpretation:
Matthew 5:29 is part of the Sermon on the Mount, one *of Jesus’* most important discourses in the Gospels. In this passage, Jesus emphasizes the importance of turning away from things that can cause us to sin, even if it means sacrificing parts of our body.

The phrase *“if your right eye causes you to stumble”* refers to anything that can tempt us to sin, and is a metaphor suggesting that just as a faulty eye can cause us to stumble, evil thoughts can cause us to fall into sin.

The idea of *??“removing”* a body part that causes us to stumble is a radical call that calls us to do whatever it takes to avoid sin. Jesus’ purpose is to make clear the seriousness of sin and the importance of turning away from anything that distances us from God.

Resolving doubts and worries

Given the stark message of the verse, it’s natural for doubts and worries to arise. Is Jesus really asking us to gouge out our eyes or cut off our hands? Isn't this a bit of an exaggeration?

In fact, Jesus wants to convey a message of caution and care. Some interpretations suggest that this is a figurative way of speaking, indicating the need to remove from our lives that which distances us from God, even if it means some sacrifice. Therefore, we must pay attention to the temptations around us and do everything possible not to succumb to them.

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> Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
>
> *— Psalm 139:7-8*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: hell, death, heaven, Holy Spirit, Spirit

Interpretation:
Psalm 139:7-8 speaks of God's omnipresence, meaning that God is present everywhere, and there is no place where He cannot be. We cannot escape His presence, for He is everywhere.

God's presence as comfort

For those who follow God, the thought of His constant presence can be a comfort. In difficult times, it's easy to feel alone and misunderstood. However, the thought of God's constant presence reminds us that we are never alone. He is there to help us and guide us through our problems.

Our sin and God's presence

While God's presence can be comforting, it can also be a source of fear for those who have sinned. God's omniscience means He knows everything, including our good and evil deeds. We can hide nothing from Him. Therefore, the thought of God's ever-present presence reminds us of the need to repent and seek His forgiveness.

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> All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.
> — *Romans 2:12*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: hell, judgment, law, punishment, sin

Interpretation:
Before Jesus Christ:

Having spoken of the difference between the executors of the will of God, the Apostle also points out the difference in the judgment upon them. Some are Jews who have received the Law and have learned from it the will of God, and will be judged according to the same Law, while others are pagans who have not received the Law and who have lived outside its guidance, and will be judged outside the Law, that is, not according to the written Law, or the Jewish Law, but according to the Law of conscience (natural).

After the coming of the Lord Savior:

Here we are dealing with the question of what to do with people who have not heard the Gospel. And what about those who live in places where the Bible is unknown? These people will be judged according to the Law of conscience (natural). God judges people not by what they do not know, but by what they know.

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> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
> — *Romans 6:23*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: hell, Eternal life, judgment, reward, sin

Interpretation:

Romans 6:23 mentions the *“wages of sin,”* which means that if we sin, there will be negative consequences. The writer of Romans is thus warning us about the consequences that sin can bring.

What is sin?

Before we delve into this verse, it is important to understand what sin is. Sin is any action that is contrary to the will of God. That is, anything we do that disobeys what God has said in the Bible is considered sin. It is important to remember this because it allows us to understand what the writer of this verse means.

Wages of sin

The *“wages of sin”* are the consequences we suffer for the bad things we do. This means that as a result of our sins, we will have to face death. However, this death does not necessarily mean physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

God's gift

In *Romans 6:23* he goes on to say, *"but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* That is, although we deserve to die for our sins, God offers us eternal life through *His Son Jesus*.

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> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.
>
> *— Romans 8:1-2*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: hell, freedom, judgment, law, punishment, Redeemer

Interpretation:
Romans 8:1-2 is a powerful statement because it shows that those who are *in Christ Jesus* are not subject to condemnation. Sin separates us from God, and if we cannot be freed from the guilt associated with sin, we cannot be freed from its consequences—death. However, Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross frees us from sin and death, and this allows us to live a new life of freedom.

Those who are in Christ Jesus

These verses also teach us the importance of being in Christ Jesus. Those who are in Christ Jesus do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. This means turning away from sin and seeking the guidance of the *Holy Spirit* in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us live according to the will of God, and when we walk in the Spirit, we experience freedom and peace.

The law of the Spirit of life

It is important to understand that in the context of Romans, the *"law"* refers primarily to the *law of Moses* or the ancient law that was designed to teach the way to God and reveal the holiness of God. However, this law could not save anyone because no one could keep it completely.

On the other hand, the law of the Spirit of life refers to the work of the *Holy Spirit* in our lives that enables us to submit to the will of God and live in freedom and victory over sin.

Liberation from the law of sin and death

In Christ Jesus, we are freed from the power of sin and death. The old law could not save us, but the work of Jesus on the cross and the coming of the *Holy Spirit* gave us a freedom we never had.

We can now keep God's commandments not out of obligation, but out of love for Him and the life He has given us. Instead of living under the yoke of sin and death, we can live in the freedom and fullness of life that God has promised.

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