

Why did the rich man go to Hell?

If we look closely, we will see the core purpose for the rich man's eternal demise - Luke 16:19-31 - 19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and LIVED IN LUXURY EVERY DAY. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 **In hell, where he was in torment,** he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 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.' 25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received YOUR GOOD THINGS, while Lazarus received bad things, but **NOW** he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' 27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 "He said to him, 'If **they do not listen TO MOSES and THE PROPHETS, THEY WILL NOT BE CONVINCED EVEN IF SOMEONE RISES FROM THE DEAD.**'"

Lived in Luxury - lampros (lam-proce'); brilliantly, i.e., figuratively, luxuriously: (extravagantly, lavishly).

The rich man is an example to those who LIVE FOR pleasure and desire - James 5:1-6 - **NOW LISTEN,** you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. **YOU HAVE HOARDED WEALTH IN THE LAST DAYS.** 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in LUXURY and SELF-INDULGENCE. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

Living for pleasure is equal to death - 1 Tim 5:6 But the widow who lives for pleasure IS DEAD even while she lives.

God says no to many of our prayers due to our purpose being pleasure - James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Pleasure and human comfort distort the Word in us –

Mark 4:18-19 - 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, **hear the word;** 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and **choke the word, making it unfruitful.**

Luke 8:14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are **choked by life's worries, riches** and PLEASURES, and **they do not mature.**

Desires for pleasure is the fuel for arguments - James 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from **YOUR DESIRES** that battle within you?

***Even when your triggers are valid, if they are based on you, the response becomes invalid.**

Before we were Christians, we were enslaved by our pleasures - Titus 3:3-5 - 3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and **ENSLAVED BY all kinds of passions and pleasures.** We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but **because of his mercy.** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Like Moses, we must make the choice of what we are living for - Heb 11:24-26 - 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He **chose to be mistreated** along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He **REGARDED DISGRACE FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST AS OF GREATER VALUE** than the treasures of Egypt, because **he was looking ahead to his reward.**

Living for pleasure is living for self, while living for Jesus is denying self. No in between- Matt 16:24-26 - 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, **HE MUST deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

If we love this temporary life, we are in for a major disappointment - John 12:25 The man who **loves his life will lose it,** while the man who **hates his life in this world** will keep it for eternal life.

Christ MUST Be our strength - Phil 4:11-13 - 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 **I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.**

Living in reverence of God is how we all must live to avoid living for pleasure - Phil 2:12-13 - 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — **continue to work out your salvation with FEAR AND TREMBLING,** 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PURPOSE.