**WHERE ARE THE DEAD?**

1. A Place of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:
   1. It was a place of \_\_\_\_.
   2. It was a place of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, for as we said he was carried by angels into Abrahams bosom, alongside of him.
   3. It was a place of comfort and \_\_\_\_\_\_, without suffering and pain.

- At the cross a tremendous thing took place with reference to Sheol or Hades, for while the lost division remains unaffected by the redemptive work of Christ, the SAVED DIVISION IS \_\_\_\_\_ WITH CHRIST.

Up until Calvary PARADISE was in Hades.

2. THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-But when Jesus went in Hades He went NOT TO STAY but to \_\_\_\_\_\_ Paradise out of Hades.

-A change therefore had taken place Ephesians 4:8-10

-when Jesus ascended He led “captivity captive”. But He first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into the LOWER parts of the earth.

In 1 Peter 3:19 we are told that Jesus:

“...went and preached to the spirits in prison”

-And then He \_\_\_\_\_\_ and ascended unto the Father and took with Him these spirits which were in the prison of Hades until then, and He led captivity captive.

3. Saints in Heaven \_\_\_\_\_\_

- On that first resurrection day when the Lord Jesus arose from the grave His soul left Hades, the place of the dead, and with Him came every one of the souls of the saints who had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Sheol.

4. When did this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

After Jesus, then had gone into Hades at His death and told the saints there that the sin question had been settled, He led them forth on the first resurrection \_\_\_.

This is apparent from two passages in the gospels: John 20:17 and

Luke 24:39

5. A Summing Up

Before the \_\_\_\_\_\_, all who died, both saved and lost, went into Hades, the place of the dead, in the heart of the earth because no actual atonement had yet been made for sin.

Sin had been COVERED but not PUT AWAY, and until that is done God cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_ any one with sin “NOT PUT AWAY” to come into His presence.

So from that day on the “SAVED” division of Hades has been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The “LOST” division is \_\_\_\_\_ the same and will not be emptied until at the judgement of the great white throne.

PRESENT WITH THE \_\_\_\_\_\_

-that is why Paul could say, “Absent from the body, but present with the Lord.” No one before the Cross ever said that or could say that.

No member of the true church of Christ since the cross ever goes to Hades but into heaven instead. The Old Testament saint went into Sheol or Hades before the cross \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the price had not been paid, but since then Hades has been conquered by the atonement of Christ and therefore He could say of every member of the true church, the body of Christ, “the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

\_\_\_\_ THE SAINTS IN HADES?

“Why were saints kept in Hades until the cross?”

God is a holy God who hates \_\_\_. Sin is such a horrible thing in His sight that He pronounced the sentence of \_\_\_\_\_\_ upon it.

The blood of the Old Testament sacrifices could not make payment for sin. They were merely types of the One to come. They were shadows.

God saved men and women before the Cross through faith in the COMING ONE Who was foreshadowed by the blood of sacrifices. Upon the promissory note of the Lord Jesus Christ that in the fullness of time He WOULD PUT AWAY SIN, God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the believing sinner but until the sin was ACTUALLY PUT away He could not admit them into His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

He saved them and kept them in the saved portion of Hades until the blood of the true Lamb was shed. That is why all the words for atonement in the Old Testament imply “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” and “turning the back upon” but never “putting away” but in the New Testament words imply a “blotting out and putting away.”

PARDON AND JUSTIFICATION

Under the Old Testament God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the sinner:

Under the New, He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HIM.

The word PARDON never once occurs in the New Testament and the word JUSTIFICATION never once occurs in the Old Testament.

A person may be pardoned and free, but it does not remove his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but to be justified means to stand before God, NOT as a pardoned but still guilty sinner, but to stand before God and in His sight, as though you had NEVER SINNED, and that is what the blood of Christ did.

All the blood of the Old Testament sacrifices could do was COVER SIN and provide PARDON, but only the blood of Christ can PUT AWAY SIN and provide JUSTIFICATION.

But Christ’s work \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ provides pardon for sin so that we are delivered from the prison house of hell, but He clothes us in His own righteousness so that the believer stands before God IN CHRIST as righteous as Christ Himself, as though He had never sinned and this admits him to the perfect society of heaven.