

BEYOND DEATH

By: Randy Baker

He had all that a person could want. He dressed in the finest clothes and ate the most delicious food. He lived like a king. Eventually, he like others, died.

There was another man who lived at the same time. He was lame and carried about by others. He was a beggar. His body was covered with sores, of which the dogs came and licked. He too, like the rich man, died.

The rich man was buried. Poor Lazarus was carried by angels into the bosom of Abraham. In death the rich man lost his wealth and the poor man lost his poverty. The change in circumstances is clearly set forth in the following words: **“But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted and thou art tormented”** (Luke 16:25) Death has a way of changing things.

I have yet to see pockets in a shroud, or a hearse pulling a U-Haul trailer. Whatever we accumulate during our lifetime will be left behind for others. The parable of the rich farmer certainly emphasizes that point. However, he died and left it all behind (Luke 12:16-21). At the memorial service of Howard Hughes the following words were read at his graveside, **“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out”** (I Timothy 6:7) Such was true of Hughes, and such is true of each of us.

Since we leave our possessions behind it is important that we seek after those things that are eternal and enduring. (Cf. Matthew 6:19-21) Only a life lived in the service of God will endure throughout eternity (Matthew 25:34-40). Have you begun to live that life? Are you seeking for that which endures for an eternity?