

SOUL FOOD

September-October 2020



***In my Father's house are many mansions:** if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you
John 14:2*

Transition to the spiritual World is universal

The writings on Life after death see

<https://swedenborg.com/emanuel-swedenborg/explore/>

The Bible on Life After Death (excerpts) *Rev Ian Arnold*

.....Jesus said: "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. **In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**"
(John 14:1-3).

These are very beautiful words. Full of promise and wonderfully reassuring. Where Christ is, there we shall be.....

*In **Matthew, chapter 22**, the Sadducees (who, by the way, did not believe in the resurrection or in survival after death) had been trying to trap the Lord, using a ridiculous example to try to make fun of the whole idea. At the end of this particular encounter with them, the Lord said these words:*

"And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living." (Matthew 22:31-33).

*It's so easy for us to miss the point here. Here was a group of people who stoutly denied the resurrection. As far as they were concerned, and though they revered the patriarchs, **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**, they were dead.*

*Not so, said Jesus. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. They are not dead. **They are alive today, though in the spiritual world.***

*And then we come to Luke's Gospel, to the description there of the **crucifixion**. One of the criminals crucified alongside Jesus railed at Him, it is said. The other defended Him and turned to Jesus asking him to remember him when He came to His Kingdom. And (Jesus) said to him, **"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise"**. They are startling words, aren't they?*

.....I want to refer you to a parable : listen to what He said. It is the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, **Luke 16:19-31**.

*"There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named **Lazarus**, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, he saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us'.

*And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment'. But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent'. He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." **(Luke 16:19-31)**.*

..... the Lord was here drawing on essentially real life experiences as He did of course in His other parables.

- *that resurrection and awakening in the spiritual world follows on after death. Lazarus died and he was taken up into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and found himself in hell.*
- *The person goes on living though now in another realm. It's interesting also that the character people form for themselves in this world goes with them into the next. Death doesn't change people....it doesn't change us as to the person we really are inside*
- *the Lord wishes to ultimately bring us all into heaven and to bless our lives with heavenly happiness, yet we must choose this life ourselves. And that, in a very real sense, is why we are here.*
- *The kind of person we freely choose to be in this world, selfish or unselfish, greedy for ourselves or more considerate for the well-being of others, is the person we will remain. As the tree falls so it lies.*

- *And after death we shall take ourselves to people like-minded to ourselves and with whom we are happiest and most at ease.*
- *we will be our old selves once again. It's always the way.*
- *Lazarus died and went to heaven. The rich man died and went to hell. They took themselves there, to all intents and purposes. Their lives or the type of person they on earth had chosen to be, determined where they would go.*

Furthemore in a hundred years from now everyone alive today, adults and children (with a few exceptions, of course) will be dead. And that wasn't said as some kind of doomsday forecast or in any morbid way.

It is a fact. We are all going to die. And it's useful and healthy to talk calmly about the fact.

*But while the body dies and is discarded the mind or **spirit** within, which is the essential person we are, **goes on living**,*

"After the death of the body the spirit of a person appears in the spiritual world in a human form, altogether as it appeared in the natural world."

H & H

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Further extract from Heaven and Hell

I have conversed with some on the third day after their decease, when the process above described was completed. Three of these had been known to me in the world, and I told them that preparations were now being made for the burial of their bodies. I said "for their burial;" on hearing which, they were struck with a sort of amazement, saying that they were alive, but that only that which had served them in the world was to be buried.

They afterwards wondered exceedingly that, during their life in the body, they did not believe in such a life after death, and especially that the same unbelief prevailed almost universally within the church.

They who, while in the world, did not believe in any life of the soul after the death of the body, are very much ashamed when they find themselves alive. But they who had confirmed themselves in such unbelief, are consociated with their like, and separated from those who had believed in man's immortality. Such sceptics are, for the most part, bound to some infernal society, because they have also denied a Divine, and despised the truths of the church: for so far as any one confirms himself against the everlasting life of his soul, he confirms himself also against the things which belong to heaven and the church. (H. H. 448-452.)

On Line Sunday worship

Live 8:30am Hurstville

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAGnuXqhYSi5LGHmZETbFw>

Live (3pm WA) from Westville South Africa: is broadcast live on Westville New Church Face Book, or can be viewed later.

<https://www.facebook.com/newchurchwestville/>

Bryn Athyn: <https://newchurchaudio.org/>

David Millar: <http://logopraxis.online/guided-meditations/psalm-46-guided-meditation/5947/> for meditations

September

Sun 6th	8:30am(W.A.time)Hurstville 10:30am Worship and Godly Play 5:30pm Observing Spirit	8.30AM LOGO PRAXIS Father's day so home worship
Sun 13 th	9:30 am Worship and Godly Play 5:30pm Observing Spirit	Aubin grove
Sun 20th	Worship 10:30 5:30pm Observing Spirit	8.30AM LOGO PRAXIS Perth Society TBA Contact David 0409887419 Aubin Grove
Sun 27th	9:30am Worship and Godly Play 5:30pm Observing Spirit	TBA Contact Mary 0407448405 Aubin Grove
October		
Sun 4th	10:30am Worship 5:30pm Observing Spirit	8.30AM LOGO PRAXIS Perth Society TBA Contact David 0409887419 Aubin Grove
Sun 11 th	9:30am Worship and Godly Play 5:30pm Observing Spirit	Aubin Grove Aubin Grove

<i>Sun 18th</i>	10:30am Worship <i>5:30pm Observing Spirit</i>	8.30AM LOGO PRAXIS Perth Society TBA <i>Aubin Grove</i>
<i>Sun 25rd</i>	<i>10:30am Worship</i> and Godly Play <i>5:30pm Observing Spirit</i>	<i>Venue TBA</i> <i>Contact Mary</i> <i>0407448405</i> <i>Aubin Grove</i>

www.newchurch.org

***We are all created to become angels of Heaven
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

LOGO PRAXIS is available online using Zoom at many times. Our Perth participants meet at 8.30am every second Sunday. This is a spiritual practice which leads to closer connection to the Lord. For information contact Sarah 0414540836

Logopraxis: <http://logopraxis.online/sermons/leave-your-gift-at-the-altar-part-i/>

The venue for worship varies ...please see programme.

ONLINE donations Westpac

Church: BSB 036-302: ACC 189720

Godly Play: BSB 036-019 ACC 258487

Our Charity is

Starting Over Support BSB 036-019 ACC 230169