

引言 INTRODUCTION

Time and timing are different things. Time describes the progression of events from past, present to future. It is measured in hours, days, etc. Timing refers to the moment when something takes place. It is often associated with opportunities. It may not matter whether you cut your hair today or next week. In comparison, there are other time-sensitive events. For instance, your flight will not wait for you if you arrive late at the airport. You can make up some missed timing by rescheduling or paying a penalty or waiting for the next opportunity. For some other things, we may regret for not seizing the right timing. Some people missed a job opening or an investment opportunity. Others were not able to say goodbye to their loved ones before they passed away. We blame ourselves: “Why didn’t I do it earlier?” Of all the decisions we need to make, there is one choice we must embrace in this life. It is the decision to receive Jesus. There will not be a second chance after we leave the world. We can only choose to accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord when we are still alive. Moreover, no one can make that decision for you. The parable we will study today illustrates those important facts.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 生平的方向 Lifetime Direction

There are two main characters in the parable – a rich man and a poor guy. They have contrasting lifetime directions. Verses 19-21 describe: 19 “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.” The wealthy guy was not named in the story. Quite possibly, he lived in a huge mansion. He dressed well and partied daily. Purple dye is extracted from certain snails. It was rare and expensive. Linen was a fine fabric the general public could not afford. Not only did the man wear luxurious clothes, he also enjoyed great food. The man had a lavish lifestyle to say the least. Then the camera pans to a poor fellow named Lazarus. He was laid at the rich man’s door. The passive voice implies that Lazarus had difficulty walking on his own. There was no social benefit or charity to help disabled people at that time. They could only beg for life. Lazarus ate crumbs fell off from the rich man’s dining table. He was not only poor, he also contracted a skin disease. To add to his misery, some dogs licked his sores. Unlike modern people, the Jews did not keep dogs as pets, since they were considered unclean animals. Being touched by unclean animals would make people unclean. Poor Lazarus was unable to fend off those strayed dogs. The two persons were on the opposite ends of the spectrum. The rich man had everything. He could depend on his money and live a trouble-free life. In comparison, Lazarus had virtually nothing. He must depend on people’s mercy to get by. He had to constantly worry about the next meal. The wealthy guy had the whole world in his hand. People knew him by where he lived, what he wore and how he partied. That kind of life is actually quite shallow. There is no doubt that money is a blessing from God. Having money is not evil, but loving money is a sin. Money should not be the final goal of our life. It is only a means for us to serve God. Paul gives us a right perspective about wealth in

Philippians 4:12-13 – **12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.** Paul tells us the secret to live an abundant life is to stay content. He did not worry about not having enough. He did not get prideful for having a surplus either. He understood that money was only a tool for his ministries. Ultimately, he learned to depend on God. He continued to do God's work whether he had a little or a lot. Contentment should be our life pursuit. Many rich people may not be satisfied with what they have. A lot of poor people get bitter when they focus on what they do not have. There is a wise prayer in Proverbs 30:8-9 that should inspire us: **8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.** The key to contentment is to trust that everything we have comes from God. That will give us peace and joy. It will also take away the greed to want more, and the anxiety about shortage. In any society, there are always the richest of the rich and poorest of the poor. Many wealthy people have a humble beginning. They get rich from hard work. There is nothing wrong if you aspire to become the best in your field. Feel free to explore the full potential of the knowledge and talents God gives you. Do the best for Him. Naturally, the higher you reach, the bigger will be your paycheck. No matter what role God puts you in, He wants you to serve Him. Therefore, do not let the chase of money guides your lifetime direction.

2. 身後的結局 Afterlife Destination

The rich man and Lazarus had different lifetime directions. Those two paths led to contrasting afterlife destinations. The descriptions make us think of heaven and hell. Before we proceed, let us keep certain principles in mind. (1) We should not impose our understandings about heaven and hell from other sources. What you learned before may not be consistent with the Bible. (2) We should focus on the information in this story, then cross-reference to other related Bible passages. We build our doctrines from the whole Bible. (3) We should be mindful of the Jewish tradition about the topics. Understanding of their culture helps us interpret the Bible. With all that in mind, let us look at verses 22-23: **22 "The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side."** We see a reversal of fortune to the two characters. Lazarus was ushered to Abraham by the angels after his death. "Go to the fathers" or similar phrases often appear in the Old Testament. Abraham is a model of a righteous person. Therefore, to be with Abraham means accepted by God. In comparison, the wealthy man ended up in a place of torment. "Hades" in verse 23 is not hell. In Jewish tradition, Hades is the place where all people will go after they pass away. It is a holding place to wait for God's final judgment. Revelation 20:13 gives us further information: **And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.** The context is about the future great white throne judgment. All dead people will be resurrected from Hades. They will come before God and be judged according to their conducts. Those people whose names are not in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. That is the real hell. Satan and his evil angels will also be sent there. Hell is a horrible place not only because of the unending pain. More importantly, people in there will forever be separated from God. The rich man got a taste of that gruesome punishment. He begged Abraham to send Lazarus to dip some water to cool his tongue. Abraham replied the man

in verses 25-26: **25 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 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.'** The request is impossible to fulfill because there is an impassable barrier. It implies that there are divided areas in Hades where righteous and unrighteous people do not mix. The wealthy man was not condemned because he was rich. He was judged for his lack of mercy. He knew Lazarus by name. That may indicate that Lazarus often showed up at his mansion. He saw Lazarus' needs, but he did nothing to help him. The Old Testament has a lot of teachings about caring for the poor. The wealthy guy's lack of compassion was a proof of his spiritual poverty. One's work of mercy verifies his/her faith in God. James 2:15-17 read: **15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** Merely talking without action amounts to nothing. We cannot say we have faith that God will provide for the needy church members, while we do not share what we have with them. There will always be poor people in the society. It is impossible to meet all of their needs. God does not ask you to give away all you have to underprivileged people. The key is to show our love to others by actions. We need to do it wisely too. Bless others with what God has blessed you with.

3. 人生的抉擇 Lifelong Decision

The rich man and Lazarus were going toward different lifetime directions. They ended up at diverse afterlife destinations. That outcome is the result of one's lifelong decision. The miserable fellow made a second request to Abraham in verses 27-28: **27 ... 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house – 28 for I have five brothers – so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'** Finally, the selfish guy showed some concern about others. He wished that Lazarus could persuade his five brothers. He hoped that they would turn to God so as to avoid the awful situation he was in. But Abraham explained in verse 31 that it was impossible: **... 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'** By Moses, Abraham was referring to the Law. The Hebrew Bible has the same 39 books of our Old Testament. It is divided into three main sections – the Law, the Prophets and the Writings. In essence, Abraham was telling the man his brothers could know God by reading the Bible on their own. Like everyone else, they must make a lifelong decision when they are in the world. If they were not convicted by God's message, then they would not be convinced by God's miracles. Someone said it wisely: The heart cannot see what it is not looking for. Since the Old Testament times, the Israelites witnessed God's power in Egypt and in the wilderness. God divided the water in the Red Sea, and He rained down manna to feed His people. For the next one thousand years or so, God sent prophets to them. They confirmed God's messages by performing miracles. Did people believe God and obey Him? Some did, but the majority of them did not. Fast forward to Jesus' time. People were amazed by His miracles. He healed their diseases and He fed them with five loaves and two fish. But they treated Jesus' supernatural power as an instant solution to their problems. The religious leaders even attributed Jesus' authority to cast out demons to Satan! It is easy for people to misplace their focus on miracle performance, instead of the miracle Performer. Signs and wonders prove that God's Kingdom had arrived through Jesus. His mighty works support His powerful words. God's Word

releases authority that changes lives. Paul says in Romans 1:16 – **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.** He also tells us in 10:17 of the same book: **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.** God can accomplish anything through any means He sees fit. Miracles still happen today. For example, missionaries serving tribal people have to confront evil forces head on. They face the similar situation God’s servants met in Bible times. Non-believers may contest: “We pray to our gods, but it didn’t work. If your God is real, then show us.” The witness of God’s power convince people that God truly exists. Today, God does not send us to perform miracles. He sends us out as gospel messengers. Our audience may be struggling with various impacts from sin. It can be loneliness, depression, anxiety about the future, etc. We must tell them that there is a God who came into the world as a man. He loved us to the degree of dying on the cross. The greatest problem that burdens all of us is not physical, financial or relational in nature. But it is spiritual. We are born-sinners and we are separated from God. Jesus Christ identified with us. He does not only understand our agony. He also provides the only solution for us. He is the bridge that reconnects us with the Father. We must admit our sins, believe that Jesus died for us but He came back to life. We must commit ourselves to follow Him the rest of our lives. We must make this lifelong decision when we still have the breath of life.

結論 CONCLUSION

We must decide to receive Jesus in this life. There will not be a second chance after we leave the world. Though the text we study today is a parable, it gives us some truths about people’s eternal destinies. The Bible tells us little about hell. Perhaps God wants us to focus on the positive aspects about heaven more than the tragic facts about hell. You may have heard of stories about near-death-experiences. Some people came back to life after they were declared death. They described that they went somewhere and saw and heard things that belong to the spiritual realm. Dr. Maurice Rawlings, a cardiologist who practiced in Chattanooga, TN wrote a few books about those incidents. He used to be an atheist until an experience in 1977 that changed his perspective about life and death. A patient named Charles had a cardiac arrest when doing a stress test. Dr. Rawlings and a few nurses were trying to resuscitate him. Finally, Charles regained consciousness. He looked very scare, and he screamed: “Please help me, please help me, I don’t want to go back to hell.” Moments later, Charles stopped breathing. Just like that, he went back and forth between life and death a few times. A nurse begged Dr. Rawlings: “Do something!” He thought: “I am a doctor, not a preacher.” Then he recalled the time when he attended Sunday school as a kid. He asked Charles to say a prayer and receive Jesus into his heart. After further attempts by the medical staff, Charles was stabilized. He shared later that he became peaceful after he said the prayer. He went to another place that he thought to be heaven where he met his birth-mother, who passed away when he was fifteen months old and his step-mom. Dr. Rawlings met other patients with similar experience where they arrived in hell but came back to life. Gradually, he also became a believer. He testified from personal experience of his patients and his research on similar incidents. He used his findings as a tool to share the gospel. We need to read those stories with discernment because there is no Biblical or scientific way to validate them. God gives us the Bible. It is an objective way for us to know God. We will see Him when we depart from the world. Our eternal destination depends on our decision today. Accept Jesus today! Those who walk with Him in the world will live with Him in eternity.

引言 INTRODUCTION

時間和時機是不同的東西。時間描述事情的進展，從過去、現在到未來。時間是以小時、天等為衡量的單位。時機是形容事情發生的那一剎那。時機常常與機會連在一起。你今天或下週剪頭髮可能都無所謂。相比之下，有一些事情必須在特定的時間完成。例如，如果你遲到機場，你的航班將不會等你。有時候你可以彌補錯過的時機，例如重新預約、罰錢或等待下一次機會。但是有其他事情，我們只能後悔沒有抓住時機。有些人錯過工作或投資的機會。又有些人無法在親人過世之前與他們告別。我們責怪自己：「我為什麼不早點做呢？」在我們需要做出的所有決定中，有一個選擇是我們今生必須考慮的。就是接受耶穌的決定。當我們離開世界之後，就不會再有第二次機會了。我們只能在還活著的時候選擇接受耶穌成為救主和生命的主。此外，沒有人可以代替你做這個決定。我們今天要學習的比喻說明了這些重要事實。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 生平的方向 Lifetime Direction

比喻中有兩個主要人物：一個財主和一個窮人。它們顯示出截然不同的生平方向。第 19 至 21 節描述：19「有一個財主穿著紫色袍和細麻布衣服，天天奢華宴樂。20 又有一個討飯的，名叫拉撒路，渾身生瘡，被人放在財主門口，21 要得財主桌子上掉下來的零碎充飢；並且狗來舐他的瘡。」故事中沒有提到這個有錢人的名字。很可能，他住在豪宅裡。他穿著華麗，而且每天都開派對。紫色染料是從某些蝸牛中提取的。它既稀有又昂貴。細麻是一般大眾買不起的布料。那個人不只穿得高級，而且還享受著美食。他過著奢侈的生活。然後鏡頭轉向一個名叫拉撒路的窮光蛋。他被放在財主的門口。這個被動的時態暗示拉撒路走路有困難。當時沒有社會福利或慈善機構來幫助殘疾人士。他們只能以討飯為生。拉撒路吃財主餐桌上掉下來的食物。他不只窮，還得了皮膚病。更讓他痛苦的是，有些狗還舐他的瘡。與現代人不同，猶太人不養狗作為寵物，因為牠們被視為不潔淨的動物。接觸不潔淨的動物，人就會變得不潔淨。可憐的拉撒路無法把那些流浪狗趕走。這兩個人是在社會上的兩個極端。財主擁有一切。他可以依靠自己的錢，無憂無慮地生活。相比之下，拉撒路幾乎一無所有。他必須依靠別人的施捨才能勉強渡日。他常常擔心下一頓飯。財主手裡握著整個世界。人們認識他，是因為知道他的住址、他穿的衣服以及他天天開派對。這樣的生活其實是很膚淺的。毫無疑問，金錢是神的祝福。有錢不是罪，但貪錢就是罪。金錢不應該是我們生活的最終目標。它只是我們事奉神的

一種途徑。保羅在腓立比書 4:12-13 告訴我們對財富的正確觀念：**12 我知道怎樣處卑賤，也知道怎樣處豐富；或飽足，或飢餓；或有餘，或缺乏，隨事隨在，我都得了秘訣。13 我靠著那加給我力量的，凡事都能做。**保羅告訴我們，過豐盛生活的秘訣就是知足。他並不擔心缺乏，他也沒有因為有剩餘而自誇。他明白金錢只是事奉神的工具。最終，他學會了依靠神。無論他擁有的是多或少，他都繼續做神的工作。知足應該是我們一生的追求。許多有錢的人可能並不滿足於他們所擁有的。許多窮人專注在自己所沒有的東西而感到難過。箴言 30:8-9 中有一個有智慧的禱告值得我們學習：**8 求你使虛假和謊言遠離我；使我也不貧窮也不富足；賜給我需用的飲食，9 恐怕我飽足不認你，說：耶和華是誰呢？又恐怕我貧窮就偷竊，以致褻瀆我神的名。**知足的關鍵是相信我們所擁有的一切都來自神。這一點帶給我們平安和喜樂。它還會消除想要更多的貪念和對缺乏的憂慮。在社會上，總是有一些比其他人更富有或更貧窮的人。許多有錢的人其實出身卑微，他們透過辛勤工作致富。如果你渴望成為所在領域中的人，這並沒有什麼錯。你可以盡量發揮神賜給你的知識和才能，把最好的獻給祂。當然，你的成就越高，你的薪水就會自然更高。但是無論神把你安排在什麼角色，你只是一個僕人。因此，不要讓金錢的追逐成為你生平的方向。

2. 身後的結局 Afterlife Destination

財主和拉撒路有著不同的生平方向。這兩條道路通往截然不同的身後結局。經文的描述讓我們想到天堂和地獄。在我們看下面的經文之前，讓我們記住幾個原則。

(1) 我們不應該強加我們從其他來源對天堂和地獄的理解。你以前聽過的可能與聖經並不一致。(2) 我們應該集中在這個故事中的信息，然後參考其他相關的經文作輔助。我們要根據整本聖經來建立我們的信仰。(3) 我們應該留意猶太人關於這些主題的傳統。了解他們的文化有助於我們解釋聖經。有了這些基礎之後，讓我們來看第 22-23 節：**22 「後來那討飯的死了，被天使帶去放在亞伯拉罕的懷裡。財主也死了，並且埋葬了。23 他在陰間受痛苦，舉目遠遠的望見亞伯拉罕，又望見拉撒路在他懷裡。」**我們看到這兩個角色的命運發生了逆轉。拉撒路死後，天使將他帶到亞伯拉罕身邊。「歸到他列祖那裡」或是類似的形容經常在舊約中出現。亞伯拉罕是義人的模範。因此，與亞伯拉罕同在，就等於蒙神悅納。相比之下，財主去到一個受苦的地方。第 23 節的「陰間」並不是地獄。在猶太傳統中，陰間是所有過世的人會去的地方。它是等待神最後審判的中途站。啟示錄 20:13 給了我們更多的信息：**於是海交出其中的死人；死亡和陰間也交出其中的死人；他們都照各人所行的受審判。**這段經文的背景是關於將來白色大寶座的審判。所有去世的人都會從陰間復活。他們將來到神面前，並根據他們的行為受到審判。那些名字沒有記錄在生命冊上的人將被丟進火湖裡。那才是真正的地獄。撒但和他的使者也會被送到那裡。地獄是一個可怕的地方，不僅是因為有無盡的痛苦。更重要的是，那裡的人將永遠與神隔絕。財主嚐到了那種可怕懲罰的滋味。他懇求亞伯拉罕派拉撒路去沾點

水來涼涼他的舌頭。亞伯拉罕在 25 至 26 節回答說：25 『兒啊，你該回想你生前享過福，拉撒路也受過苦；如今他在這裡得安慰，你倒受痛苦。26 不但這樣，並且在你我之間，有深淵限定，以致人要從這邊過到你們那邊是不能的；要從那邊過到我們這邊也是不能的。』他的要求無法達到，因為兩個地方之間有阻隔。這裡暗示陰間有不同的區域，義人與不義的人不會混在一起。財主被定罪並不是因為他有錢，乃是因為他缺乏憐憫。他知道拉撒路的名字。這可能表示拉撒路經常出現在他的門口。他看到拉撒路的需要，但他沒有幫助他。舊約聖經中有很多關於照顧窮人的教導。這個財主沒有同情心，證明了他靈裡的貧窮。一個人憐憫的行動證明他對神的信心。雅各書 2:15-17 說：15 若是弟兄或是姐妹，赤身露體，又缺了日用的飲食；16 你們中間有人對他們說：「平平安安的去吧！願你們穿得暖，吃得飽」；卻不給他們身體所需用的，這有什麼益處呢？17 這樣，信心若沒有行為就是死的。光說不做是於事無補的。我們不能說我們相信神會供應弟兄姐妹的需要，但是卻不與他們分享我們所擁有的。社會上永遠都會有窮人。滿足他們的所有需求是不可能的。神並沒有要求你把一切的都捐給他們。關鍵在於用行動表達我們對別人的愛。我們也需要有智慧地去做。用神祝福你的東西來祝福別人。

3. 人生的抉擇 Lifelong Decision

財主和拉撒路走向不同的生平方向。他們最終到達了不同的身後結局。他們的終點是人生抉擇的結果。那個可憐蟲在第 27-28 節中向亞伯拉罕提出了第二個請求：27 ... 『我祖啊！既是這樣，求你打發拉撒路到我父家去；28 因為我還有五個弟兄，他可以對他們作見證，免得他們也來到這痛苦的地方。』那個自私的傢伙終於關心別人的處境。他希望拉撒路能夠說服他的弟兄。他希望他們轉向神，免得他們得到同樣可怕的下場。但是亞伯拉罕在第 31 節中解釋那是不可能的：... 『若不聽從摩西和先知的話，就是有一個從死裡復活的，他們也是不聽勸。』亞伯拉罕所說的摩西是指舊約律法。猶太人的聖經包括舊約聖經相同的 39 卷書。它分為三個主要部分：律法、先知和寫作。亞伯拉罕的意思是，財主的兄弟可以自己讀聖經來認識神。像任何人一樣，他們在世時必須做出人生的抉擇。如果他們沒有被神的話語所說服，他們就不會被神蹟所說服。有一句很有智慧的話說：眼睛無法看到心不在尋找的東西。自舊約時代以來，以色列人在埃及和曠野見證了神的大能。神將紅海的水分開，降下嗎哪來餵養祂的子民。在接下來的一千年左右的時間裡，神差遣了先知到他們中間。他們行神蹟來證明神的信息。人們相信神並順服祂嗎？只有少數人相信。到了耶穌的時代，人們對主所行的神蹟感到驚訝。祂醫治他們的疾病，並用五餅二魚餵飽他們。但他們只希望耶穌用超自然能力解決他們的問題。宗教領袖甚至將耶穌趕鬼的權柄歸於撒但！人們很容易把注意力集中在神蹟上，而不是行神蹟的神身上。神蹟證明神的國透過耶穌降臨。祂的能力證明祂大能的話語。神的話語能釋放出改變生命的權柄。保羅在羅馬書 1:16 說：我不以福音為恥；這福音本是神的大能，要救一切相信的，先是猶太人，後是希利尼人。保羅在同一卷書的

10:17 告訴我們：**可見信道是從聽道來的，聽道是從基督的話來的。**神可以透過祂認為適合的方式來做事。時至今日，神蹟依然在發生。例如，在部落民族中服事的宣教士必須與邪惡勢力正面對抗。他們面對聖經時代神的僕人所遇到的類似情況。非信徒可能會挑戰：「我們向神明祈禱，但是沒有用。如果你的神是真實的，那就讓我們看看吧。」神的大能讓人相信神是真實存在的。今天，神並沒有派我們去行神蹟，祂差遣我們作福音的使者。我們的聽眾可能受罪的各種影響，可能是孤單、憂鬱症、對未來的焦慮等等。我們必須告訴他們，有一位神以人的身份來到世上。祂愛我們到一個地步，甘願死在十字架上。全人類面對的最大問題不是關乎身體、財務或關係。乃是屬靈的。我們生來就是罪人，與神隔絕。耶穌基督與我們認同。祂不僅了解我們的痛苦，祂為我們提供了唯一的解決方案。祂是我們與天父重新連結的橋樑。我們必須承認自己的罪，相信耶穌為我們死，但祂死後復活。我們也必須委身予耶穌，願意一生跟隨祂。當我們仍然活在世間時，必須做出這個人生的抉擇。

結論 CONCLUSION

我們必須決定在今生接受耶穌。當我們離開這個世界之後，就不會再有第二次機會了。雖然我們今天學習的經文是一個比喻，但它給了我們一些關於人永恆命運的真理。聖經很少告訴我們有關地獄的事。也許神希望我們更專注於天堂的正面結果，而不是地獄的悲慘事實。你可能聽過一些人死後又活過來的故事。他們在被宣布死亡後又被救回來。他們描述自己去了某個地方，看到和聽到靈界的事情。在田納西州查塔努加 (Chattanooga) 執業的心臟醫生莫里斯·羅林斯 (Maurice Rawlings) 寫了幾本關於這些事件的書。他曾經是一名無神論者，直到 1977 年的一次經歷改變了他對生與死的看法。一位名叫查爾斯 (Charles) 的病人在進行檢查時心臟停止跳動。羅林斯醫生和幾名護士努力搶救。查爾斯終於恢復了知覺。他看起來很害怕，尖叫道：「請你幫助我，請你幫助我，我不想回到地獄。」過了一會兒，查爾斯停止了呼吸。就這樣，他在生與死之間來回了幾次。一名護士懇求羅林斯醫生：「請你幫幫他吧！」他想：「我是醫生，又不是牧師。」他忽然想起小時候上主日學的情形。他勸告查爾斯禱告並接受耶穌進入他的心。經過醫護人員的進一步努力，查爾斯的病情穩定下來。他後來分享說，祈禱後他變得平靜。他去了另一個他認為是天堂的地方，並遇見了他十五個月大時去世的親生母親和領養他的母親。羅林斯醫生遇到了其他有類似經歷的病人，他們到達地獄後又活過來。漸漸地，他也成為了信徒。他引述自己的病人的經歷和類似事件，作為傳福音的工具。我們需要小心地閱讀這些故事，因為沒有聖經或科學的方法來驗證它們。神賜給我們聖經。這本書是我們認識神的客觀途徑。當我們離開世界時，我們就會見到神。我們永恆的終點取決於我們今生的決定。今天就接受耶穌吧！那些在世上與主同行的人將與祂在永恆裡同在。