

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

8/23/2026 PM

I. PLEASE EXPLAIN PAUL'S CONSCIENCE (ACTS 23:1).

A. Stated: Did Paul do wrong things without his conscience bothering him?

B. Answer:

1. What were some of Paul's actions:
 - 1) Paul consented unto Stephen's death (**Acts 8:1**).
 - 2) Paul breathed out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord (**Acts 9:1-2**).
 - 3) Paul persecuted the church of God and wasted it (**Gal. 1:13**).
 - 4) Paul admits to being a blasphemer, a persecutor and one who was injurious to the cause of Christ (**1 Tim. 1:13**).
 2. Question: Are the things Paul did in this list wrong? Absolutely.
 - 1) He consented to the murder of an innocent person.
 - 2) He threatened and harmed good Christian people.
 - 3) He blasphemed, that is, spoke out against the Lord's cause.
 3. Notice **Acts 23:1**.
 - 1) Notice that Paul said that He always had a clear conscience before God unto that very day when he stood before the Jewish council.
 - 2) He had a good conscience when he was persecuting, tormenting, and killing Christians.
 - 3) So, the answer to our question is: "Yes." Paul did wrong things without his conscience ever bothering him.
 4. Why was this the case?
 - 1) The definition of conscience: "a feeling that originates in the mind that either approves or condemns our actions based on the training we have received."
 - 2) Early in his life, Paul was trained in the Jew's religion.
 - a. **Acts 22:3**.
 - b. **Philippians 3:5-6**.
 5. While Paul was persecuting Christians, his religious training in the Jewish religion was guiding him.
 - 1) He believed that Jesus was a fraud.
 - 2) He did not believe the kingdom had been established.
 - 3) Christianity was opposed to Judaism.
 - 4) The church was the enemy of the chosen people of God.
 6. With this thinking in his mind, his conscience never bothered him as he persecuted and killed Christians. He believed he was doing the will of God.
- C. LESSON: Our conscience should NEVER be our guide unless we know that it has been properly trained and guided by the Word of God.**
1. Notice that in such cases, the Word of God is our standard.
 2. We are either approved or condemned based upon what is written in the divine text.

II. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE IN PARADISE AND HEAVEN?

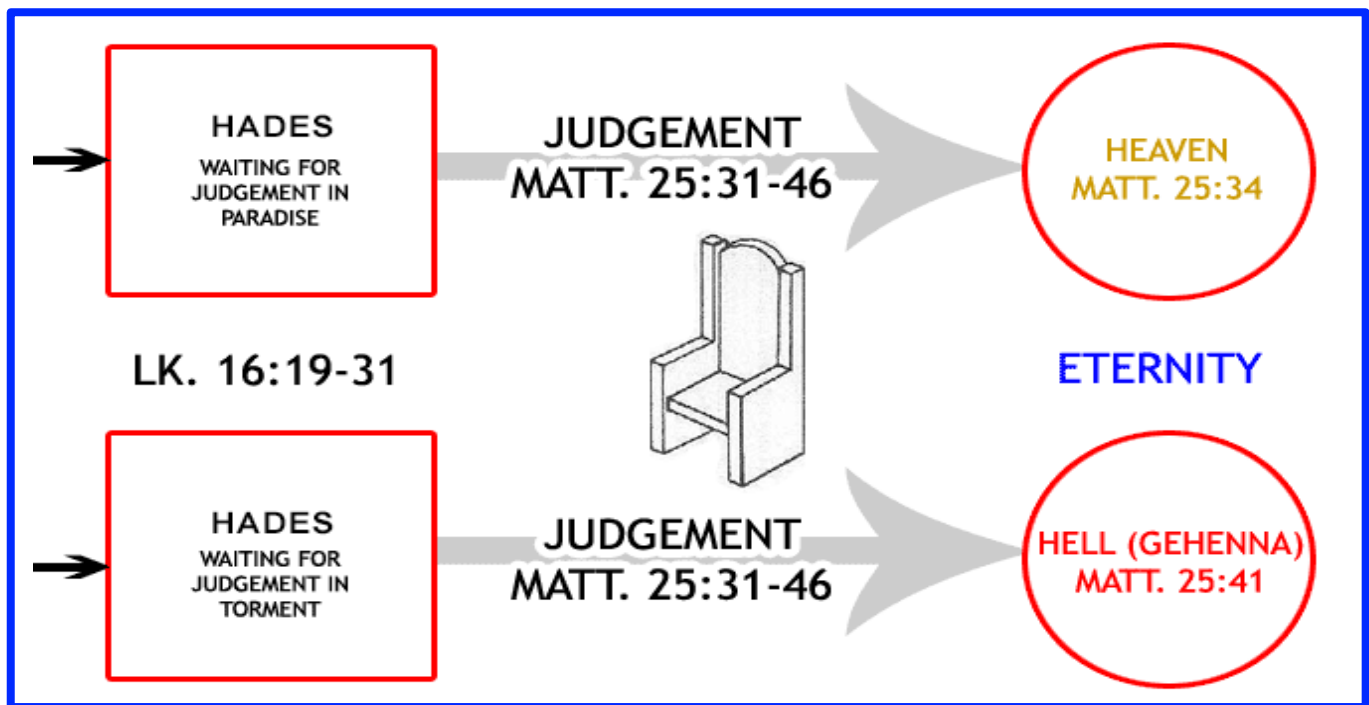
A. Read **Luke 1:19-24.**

B. Two places of residence before the final pronouncement.

1. Judgment must come before we go into our eternal abode.
2. Paradise is not heaven and the place of torments is not hell.

C. The word hades.

1. The word hades defined: “properly unseen, that is, “Hades” or the place (state) of departed souls” (Thayer’s Greek Dictionary). Twenty-three times in the New Testament.
2. It is a temporary place in which we await judgment.
 - 1) **Luke 16:23**: Both Lazarus and the rich man were in hades (the unseen world).
 - 2) One in torments, the other in paradise. The two places separated by a fixed gulf.
 - 3) **Acts 2:31**: Jesus went to the unseen world (hades).
 - a. The “thief on the cross” went to Paradise (**Luke 23:43**).
 - b. He was resurrected and ascended to the Father (**Acts 1:9**).



III. CONCLUSION:

- A. None will escape death.
- B. The question is... where will we be as we await judgment.