

Total Rebellion

It's been said that some are so calloused that if you paid them cash for the truth, they'd lie on credit. Now, that's a sad predicament, to be sure, but a veritable truth, nonetheless. A conscience "*seared with a hot iron*" (1 Timothy 4:2) that will not "*retain God in (its) knowledge*" (Romans 1:28) stands condemned both now and forever; and there appears to be no hope. This is hard medicine for those unwilling to give up hope, like the drowning man that clings to a straw. But, such is the picture painted by the inspired writer, Luke.

As the scene beyond the grave unfolds, we are introduced to Lazarus, who's life was pure misery, and a "*certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day*" (Luke 16:19ff) until, of course, his days came to an end. Discovering his eternal plight, the rich man begged for mercy (v. 24) but it was too late. It appears to be an afterthought to plead on behalf of his still living brothers, requesting an arisen-from-the-dead messenger. Abraham's response is chilling: "*If they do not hear Moses and the prophets (the Law of God under which these two had lived), neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead*" (v. 31).

Now, lest we believe this to be too unrealistic an assertion, note the following. Jesus' bonified miracles didn't make a dent on the Pharisees (Matthew 9:34), who continued to reject His Deity. Shortly thereafter, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and they sought to make him dead... again (John 12:20). When Jesus rose from the dead, they concocted a lie to cover up the truth (Matthew 28:12-15). Do you see the irony in this?

Total rebellion is a sad, unreasoned and eternally damning response to the truth. And, some are there! It is in the inspired record for a two-fold purpose: (1) to help us understand that we should not "*cast (our) pearls before swine*" (Matthew 7:6) as, frankly and truthfully, they are not worth the effort; and (2) a warning to every living soul that the potential to choose poorly so often and defend mistakes so maliciously can lead one to a point of no return. Don't become "*like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed,*" who "*utterly perish in their own corruption*" (2 Peter 2:12).