

# PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

BY SCOTT PARKER

## SOME SURPRISING LESSONS LEARNED TOO LATE

Folks, there's no doubt in my mind that the masses who die unprepared for eternity are faced with various surprises. The purpose of this article is simply to note some of those “shockers” that the unprepared have faced. Thus, in no particular order...

- ✿ All the atheists and agnostics who've died must have been surprised to discover in torment (**Lk. 16:19-31**) that God is real.
- ✿ Those who have died unprepared and who have tried to claim “ignorance” of God's instructions, must have been awfully surprised to learn that ignorance is not bliss (**Rom. 1:20; 2 Th. 1:7-9; Jer. 14:14-16; Prv. 21:27; Eph. 4:17-18**).
- ✿ The materialists who've died must have been sorely surprised to learn that, contrary to what they asserted, man does not cease to exist after death (**Mt. 25:46; Isa. 14:4-15; Rev. 6:9-10**). Moreover, they must have been very surprised to learn that they would share eternity with a very unsavory cast of characters (**1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1:28-32; Rev. 21:8**).
- ✿ All the Muslims who have died must have been very surprised to learn they blew it relative to their view about Jesus being just a prophet (**Koran 2:136** – <http://www.submission.org/suras/sura2.html>) (cf. **Jn. 5:23; 8:21-24; 14:10**).
- ✿ All the “scholars” in the “Christian” religious world – yes, even those who are “members” of the church – who have died must have been extremely surprised to learn that they were wrong regarding the personage of Christ; i.e. teaching Jesus was just an ordinary man (**Mt. 1:21-23; Jn. 8:21-24; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:3; Rom. 9:5**).
- ✿ I suppose all of the “good” and “decent” people who've died unprepared must have been surprised to discover in torment that they were foolish in not making time for Christ (**Mt. 12:30; Lk. 13:22-27**). Yes, they must've been sadly shocked to learn that morality, in and of itself, is not enough to please God (**Ax. 10:1ff**). How surprised they must have been to learn that instead of being “good” and “decent,” they were actually covered with sin (**Rom. 3:23; Ps. 37:23; Ax. 22:16**).
- ✿ Imagine how resoundingly surprised millions were to have learned (in torment) that their favorite preacher was, in reality, nothing more than a pitiful false teacher (**2 Pet. 2:1-3; Mt. 15:14; 23:15**). Here I do not have reference only to the obvious charlatans of the world – Benny Hinn, et al. No, I also wonder how many “church of Christ's” have died only to be very unpleasantly surprised to discover that the BNP (big name preacher) they “sat at the feet of” led them astray (**Ax. 20:30**).
- ✿ I am quite certain the many people who've died subscribing to the idea that a preacher must cater to their desires, must have been super surprised to learn that the preachers they thought were their enemies were, in reality, extending a helping hand (**Gal. 4:16; Jude 23; 2 Cor. 12:15**). If only they had listened!
- ✿ Multitudes “raised in the church” must have been terribly surprised to die and learn that “roots” are not enough to save one from the wrath of God (**Mt. 3:9; Jn. 8:39; Rom. 2:5-10**).
- ✿ Consider how many have died only to shockingly learn that “The Sinner's Prayer” does not remove sin (**Ax. 2:28; 22:16**).
- ✿ How many Florida College boosters have died only to surprisingly learn, in torment, that their “good” and “wonderful” work was *instituted* without the Lord's authority (**Col. 3:17; 2 Jn. 9**).
- ✿ Think about how many surprised millions have learned the hard way (in the flames) that one is not permitted by God to “*join the church of your choice*” (**Mt. 15:13; Ax. 2:47; Eph. 4:4**).
- ✿ I'm sure more than a few folks have, in torment, been surprised to learn that local churches are not free to do just whatever they want to do (**2 Tim. 1:13; Col. 1:18; Col. 3:17; 2 Sam. 7:1-7**).
- ✿ I'm also quite sure more than a few people have died only to surprisingly learn that they were extremely foolish to have sacrificed the Lord's will on the altar of “*but it's my family*” (**Mt. 10:37**).