

Studer, Gerald. *After Death, What?* Scottdale, Pa.: Herald, 1976. 183 pp. Paperback, \$1.95.

This book was not originally planned for publication, but its content was presented as studies to a congregation. Although a few footnotes appear, the style of the book is not scholarly; rather, it is that of an exposition. Studer says very little about the wicked, but feels that the righteous live a conscious but disembodied existence in the intermediate state. They are aware of what goes on here, and the period is one of growth and maturation in Christ. He depends heavily on the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus to support his view. He also refers to Christ's descent (1 Pet 3:19), to Christ's statement that God is the Father of Abraham and of the *living* (Matt 22:23-33), to the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) who went to Paradise (the resting place of good men after death). He affirms also the second coming of Christ with the resurrection of all the dead and their final judgment—the annihilation of the wicked and the entrance of the righteous into heaven. He does not mention the millennium.

The weakest point in Studer's whole discussion is his treatment of the intermediate period, especially the use of peripheral elements in a parable for theological purposes. He also does not correlate the intermediate period with the resurrection, nor the relationship between those who have died and have a period of maturation before the resurrection and those who are alive at Christ's coming and who do not have this period of growth.

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