

The Reality of Hell

Text: Rev. 20.15 - And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Thesis: To look at the picture of hell painted for us through inspiration so that we will be encouraged to live in such a way as not to go there.

Introduction:

- (1) It is said that for the Christian, earth is the only hell that he/she will know. For the Non-Christian, earth is the only heaven that he/she will know.
- (2) Sadly, many people do not believe in the reality of hell.
 - (a) Many conclude that God's love will allow many, if not all, to be saved.
 - (b) They forget about God's justice.
 - (c) Some even believe that hell is only annihilation.
- (3) Nevertheless, the Bible teaches the reality of hell.
 - Billy Graham said that hellfire and brimstone preaching was good for the '40's and '50's but is no longer good for the new millenium. It is funny how we change because in the late '50's, Mr. Graham was quoted like this, "If there was more hell in the pulpit there would be less hell in the pew."
 - The Lord Jesus Christ spoke about Hell twice as much as He did about Heaven. There was only one subject that He dealt with more and that was money.
- (4) Illustration – Unbeliever asked Christian: Suppose you learn there is no Heaven? Christian asked Unbeliever: Suppose you learn there is a Hell?

I. The Purpose of Hell

- A. It was originally prepared for the Devil and his angels (**Matthew 25:41 - Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:').**
- B. God's justice demands that man pay for his sins.
 1. Jesus died for all men (**Heb. 2.9-10 - But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.').**
 2. All who accept this gift will be saved from God's wrath (**Rom. 5.9 -Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.).**
 3. Those who do not accept this gift will meet God's wrath (**2 Thess. 1.7-9 - 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,').**

II. The Place of Hell

- A. It is a lake of fire (**Rev. 20.15 - And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.').**
 1. This fire is not quenched (**Mark 9.48 - Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.').**
 2. You never get use to the pain.
- B. It is a place of torment (**Luke 16.23-24 - 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.**

24 “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’).

C. It is a place of consciousness (**Luke 16.23-24**).

1. One of the saddest statements is, “Child, remember [...]” (**Luke 16.25 - 25 But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.**).

2. Degree of punishment – **2 Pet. 2.20-22** (Let opportunity slip)

D. It is a place without the slightest hope of release (**Matt. 25.46 - And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**” – Everlasting destruction).

E. It is a place of darkness (**Matt. 8.12 - But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**”).

F. It is a place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (**Matt. 25.30 - And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**).

G. It is a place where the worm does not die (**Mark 9.48**).

H. It is a place where you are separated from God’s presence (God is in Heaven).

III. The People of Hell - [The Majority – Matt. 7.13-14 - 13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because[a] narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.]

A. Those who do not believe in God (**2 Thess. 1.7a. 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels.**).

B. Those who do not obey God (**2 Thess. 1.7b; Matt. 7.21**).

C. Those who did obey but have fallen away (**2 Pet. 2.20-22 - 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,”[a] and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”).**

D. Simply, those whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (**Rev. 20.15**).

E. It is said that “Hell is paved with good intentions, roofed in with lost opportunities” (Portuguese Proverb).

IV. The Preaching of Hell –

A. **Jude 1:23** "RESCUE OTHERS by SNATCHING them (pulling them out) from the FLAMES OF JUDGMENT. There are still others to whom you need to show mercy, but be careful that you aren't contaminated by their sins."

B. **Ezekiel 33:1-10** - 1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, 3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the

sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.' 7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. 10 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?"' 11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

C. William Booth – Salvation army... vision of hell

Conclusion:

- (1) Hell is just as real as is Heaven.
- (2) Nevertheless, because of God's grace, we get to decide upon where we want to choose eternity.
- (3) "He who hesitates has already decided."
- (4) What will you decide?