

A HORRIBLE PLACE CALLED HELL

Luke 16:19-31

THE BIBLE IS the only, true authority for this serious subject of Hell. God and Jesus declare Hell to be a very real place. Of the 162 references to Hell in the New Testament, 70 come from Jesus Himself. Jesus was a Hell-fire preacher!

Hell Is A Real Place

Luke 16:27-28—He answered, *‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father’s house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’*

Hell is not a metaphor or a symbol, not a description of our inner misery or our present sufferings, no matter how agonizing these may be. It is not a state of mind. It is a real place with spatial dimensions. The Bible indicates its remoteness from God’s life and light by describing it as place *“outside of God’s kingdom,outside, somewhere in outer darkness (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30).”*

It is a place that has been created at the command of God and *“prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41).”*

Hell Is A Place of Uninterrupted Consciousness

The rich man is conscious of the fact that he is the same man. He has retained his personality, and is perfectly aware of his surroundings. He feels, he knows, he sees, he reasons, and he remembers. He isn’t sleeping.

At death we are all going to lose something. We are going to lose the physical and lose our possessions. Death will rob us of all that is material. By death cannot rob us of ourselves.

Hell Is A Place of Memory and Awful Remorse

There is no forgetting in the Hell. The forgetting is done by God. Memory is going to be a power that will help intensify the joys of heaven, or help to embitter the pangs of Hell.

Jesus in Mark chapter 9 three times refers to “*Where the worm never dies!*”

The WORM—is the worm of a tormenting conscience! Oh, how dreadful it will be, to have this tormenting worm that tortures the spirit, without ceasing.

Those sinners who would never hear *the voice* of conscience--shall feel *the worm* of conscience! A worm full of poison feeding on the heart of a man (Thomas Watson)!

Hell Is A Place of Everlasting Punishment

Hell is a divine revelation of the hatefulness of sin, and of the holy justice of God.

Punishment in Hell is divine retribution. It is the vengeance of God unleashed against those who reject His Son and die in their sins. It’s payback time!

Scripture tells us that, although all the ungodly will be punished, they will not all be punished to the same degree. Some will suffer more than others will: the greater the guilt, the greater the penalty. God will deal with sins committed in ignorance less severely than with acts of deliberate disobedience (read Lk. 12:47-48).

Most frightening thought is that the punishment is everlasting. We are told of “*everlasting destruction*” (2Th. 1:9), “*everlasting fire...everlasting punishment* (Matt. 25:41, 46).”

Just as the joys and blessings of heaven are eternal, so are the pains and curses of Hell.

Hell Is A Place of Unquenchable Fire

Mark 9:43-49 says, “... *to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire.*”

When the Bible uses symbolic language, it does so to describe things that are indescribable to our human minds. In other words, the reality is far more intense than the symbolic.

It is a material fire, though of a nature different from ordinary fire. Hell’s fire is far more intense, far more blazing, far more scorching than any earthly fire.

The fire, like everything else is literal. It is real fire. Souls literally burn, but are never consumed there. They never die. If they want to kill themselves a million times over, they can't.

Isaiah 33:14, "*Who can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?*"

Luke 16:23-24, "*for I am tormented in this flame.*" The torment the rich man is experiencing is unbearable. It's excruciating. The flame is real.

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night (Rev.14:11).

The ever-rising smoke is the smoke of burning sulfur. Sulfur is what matches and gunpowder are made of. The earthly element sulfur can be found near hot springs and volcanic regions in many parts of the world. Burning sulfur or brimstone has a stifling, suffocating, stinking smell. The stench in Hell will be horrendous.

Hell Is A Place of Bad Company

The dreadful company one keeps in Hell is found in Rev. 21:8, "*But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*"

There in Hell will be the depraved monsters such as the Hitlers, the Stalins, the false prophet, the Antichrist, myriads of demons and the devil himself.

But the bible also says, "*them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*" will be there (2Th 1:8). Outwardly upright, decent people, millions of them, which are good citizens, caring parents, reliable employees, friendly neighbors—who did not care to "*obey the gospel.*"

Hell Is A Place of Final Separation

2 Thess. 1:8-9, "*Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*"

They cannot be locally separated from God, [for] they cannot be in a place where He is not. He is and will be present everywhere: *“If I make my bed in hell,”* says the Psalmist, *“behold you are there”* (Ps. 139:8). But they shall be miserable beyond expression in a *relative separation* from God.

They shall be deprived of the glorious presence and enjoyment of God. They shall have no part in seeing the glories of heaven. Being separated from God, who is good, they are deprived of all that is good. The good things that they set their hearts upon in this world are beyond their reach there.

In one word, they shall be deprived of whatever might comfort them, being totally and finally separated from God, the Fountain of all goodness and comfort.

I would rather go into the kingdom of Heaven through the poor house than go down into Hell in a golden chariot (D.L. Moody).

SOLI DEO GLORIA!