

ROADBLOCKS ON THE ROAD TO HELL

Jesus was a Hellfire preacher. Jesus spoke often about Hell; there is no doubt that it is a real place.

Mark 9:43-48—

43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched--

44 where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched--

46 where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire--

48 where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

In the last sermon that Jesus preached before His crucifixion, we read about the judgment of the nations: *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: (Matthew 25:41).*

Everyday God is doing everything possible to keep men and women from going into that awful, inconceivable place. *God our Saviour wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4).* The Apostle Peter says, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise . . . but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).* *God commands men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).*

God has filled the road to Hell with a number of roadblocks designed to prevent us from going there. If any person ever drops into Hell, it will be by his own deliberate choice, because he will have ignored the roadblocks which God has set in his path.

It is not God's will that anyone should be lost. Remember that men are not only *loved* into heaven, they are *warned* into it.

Let's consider five of God's roadblocks.

Roadblock # 1 –The Conscience

John MacArthur describes conscience as “a built-in warning system that signals us when something we have done is wrong. The conscience is to our souls what pain sensors are to our bodies: it inflicts distress, in the form of guilt, whenever we violate what our hearts tell us is right.”

1. Conscience acts judicially –accusing or excusing (Rom.2:15). The conscience really sits in judgment as to whether our actions are good or bad.
2. Conscience acts punitively-inflicting remorse and self punishment.

Paul says, by nature the Gentiles have consciences that bear witness to the presence of the law of God (i.e. the Decalogue) written on their hearts, even though they did not have the Mosaic Law (Romans 2:14-15).

But we can get around that roadblock. The New Testament talks about a conscience that is “seared” or rendered numb as though it had been seared with a hot iron (1 Tim. 4:1-2). A seared conscience is desensitized to moral pangs and discomforts. Seared with a hot iron is the idea of the hide of an animal scarred by a hot branding iron, which has become numb to further pain.

Jesus tells us that those who die in their sins will have their *consciences eat away at them* throughout eternity. Their worm does not die. It won't ever stop tormenting them of their guilt, ages without end.

Roadblock # 2 –The Bible

The Bible is a barricade between your soul and Hell. You cannot go very far in the path of sin without finding the Bible standing in your way.

The Bible is one of the greatest hindrances to sin in the world. It is the great disturber of history. You can never free yourself of its living and active words. The message of the Bible is designed to haunt and agitate you, until you find peace with God.

The message of the Bible is God's message. The Bible message on the roadblock up ahead says, “*Are you prepared to meet your God?* (Amos 4:12). No one can escape this reality.

Acts 17:31 –*He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man (Christ Jesus) whom He has ordained.*

Heb. 9:27 –*And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*

Either you meet Him in this life as Saviour, or you will meet Him after death as Judge. But everyone is going to meet God, for better or for worse.

The Bible is God's GPS to get you back on the right course—the narrow road that leads to life. The great American evangelist D. L. Moody would say, "If there be no Hell, let us burn our bibles." Think about it. Of what worth would they be?

Roadblock # 3 –The Prayers of God's People

The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16).

A Christian poet has written:

*"I grieved my Lord from day to day
I scorned His love so full and free,
And though I wandered far away
My mother's prayers have followed me."*

God uses the prayers of upright mothers and fathers and other concerned believers, as roadblocks to stop sons and daughters and neighbours and friends from continuing on the path of unbelief, of sin, and of rebellion that leads to a dark eternal doom.

Pray saints, pray! So that you may prevent people from going down the road of perdition. Pray saints; keep on praying, so that you may be a blockade for them. We are called to pray for the salvation of the lost.

If you die in your sins, and go to the place of outer darkness—you will go there *over* the prayers of God's people—perhaps *over* the prayers and tears of your own praying mother and or father.

Roadblock #4 –The Preaching of the Cross

The Bible says that "*in the wisdom of God. . . it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe*" (1 Corinthians 1:21).

God has ordained the simple, straightforward teaching and preaching of the Gospel as one means of stopping people on the road to Hell. He ordained preaching "*to save those who believe.*" You cannot get into Hell without *climbing over* every Gospel sermon you have ever heard.

It has pleased God to choose not angels, but sinners saved by grace, to preach the good news of salvation. For it brings Him great glory!

Romans 5:8 –*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

My friend, in the middle of the road to Hell stands a roadblock in the form of a cross. It is the testament of God's love for you designed to keep you from Hellfire. . This roadblock is the largest of roadblocks. It's the size of a mountain. To be precise— Calvary's mountain. No one on earth, in Heaven or in Hell can deny that this roadblock is in the centre of the road.

Christ was crucified for our sins, buried and raised on the third day for our justification. If you are still unsaved, turn from yours sins; confess them to Christ by believing in Him, before it is too late. Repent, God commands it. To repent means to have a change of mind. A change of mind that results in a change of action. Repentance involves recognizing that you have thought wrongly in the past and determining to think aright in the future. Repentance involves a right thinking about God, about sin, about holiness, and about doing God's will.

Those who ignore what Jesus did on the cross are worthy of God's unceasing punishment. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:29-31). It is a terrible thing to make light of the blood of Jesus. To get to Hell you have to *climb over* the roadblock of the cross, and *trample down* the precious blood of the Saviour.

Roadblock # 5 –The Spirit's Call

The Holy Spirit, at some time or another, pleads with every human being. His present work in the world is to convict of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).

- **Sin:** Because they don't believe Jesus
- **Righteousness:** Self-righteousness counts for nothing. The righteousness of God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe is what counts.
- **Judgment:** The prince of this world, Satan stands judged by the cross of Christ.

My friend, the Holy Spirit calls you, woos you, pleads with you, if you are still in your sins. He knocks on the door of your heart. You had better not resist the call of the Spirit of God. Today is the day of salvation. If you hear God's voice, do not harden your heart. Call upon the name of the Lord and you shall be saved. It is a promise. God is faithful, He will save you.

The figures used in the Bible to describe Hell, present to us a terrible condition for those who chose to go there by ignoring the signs, the warnings, and the roadblocks on road to that terrible place of horrors. Hell is described as a “*furnace of fire,*” a place of “*everlasting fire,*” and a lake of “*unquenchable fire.*”

Jesus says of those who refuse to be saved, “*These shall go away into everlasting punishment*” (Matthew 25:46) and be lost forever. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ and be saved, before it's too late. Turn or burn!

If you wind up in Hell, you will go there *over* the love of God, the warnings of God, the cross of Calvary, the prayers of God's people, the preaching of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit's convicting work.

You will only have yourself to blame and curse in Hell for all eternity.