

Heaven

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Lesson #10

If only they could see ...

- **The difference in eternal destinies between the saved and lost is as stark as night and day, east and west, and up and down.**
- **If only the lost could see through the darkness what the gospel offers versus what the world offers, no one would choose hell.**
- **And yet, the world treats the gospel as though it is acid, or poison, or something of great danger to them.**

If only they could see ...

- Ever since the fall (actually before the fall) God has been at work to redeem lost people.
- He has been more than just, He has been gracious and has operated with unbelievable patience.
- Yet, according to Jesus himself, far more will reject God's grace than will receive it.

Some say, “there is no hell”.

- **People are offended by the thought of a literal hell.**
- **Therefore, we look for ways to convince ourselves that it isn't so.**
- **Because if there is no hell, why do I need to be saved?**

Even Some Christians

- Perhaps the biggest obstacle of all is that too many Christians no longer believe in hell.
- Many of the arguments are along the line of “God is a God of love and therefore could not send people to an eternal place of punishment”.
- But is that what the Bible teaches, or is that what they want to be true?

But the Bible Says

- Dan 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- Matt 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.”
- 2 Thes 1:9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

Hell

- **And there are also those with modified positions on hell – some say that hell is the sum of the bad things that happen to you in this life.**
- **Some say that hell is not eternal torment, but rather it is a one-time instantaneous destruction of the person.**
- **I agree that hell is hard to fathom, but that does not make it a false doctrine.**

Is Hell Eternal?

- Matt 25:45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ 46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”
- According to Strong’s Concordance the same Greek word is used above for both instances of eternal.
- So you might say that if hell isn't eternal, then neither is heaven.

Is Hell Eternal?

- In hell no one repents, but they keep hating God and so perpetuate their sin.
- Therefore in hell, one's punishment never catches up to his sin.
- There are restraints on sin today – human law, societal pressure, and the restraining light of the believer, but in hell sinners are unrestrained.

Perspective

- We find it hard to imagine our sin as so offensive that it warrants eternal judgment.
- I think that reveals how little we really know of the holiness of God.
- Perhaps what should be just as hard to accept is the truth that God will reward us with everlasting life after the way we've treated Him!

**There is nothing to look forward to
in hell.**

- **Solomon's quote below points to the ultimate boredom of being lost.**
- **There is not even the hope of a better future.**
- **Eccl 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.**

Saved From What?

- **Alcoholism is not sin, it is a disease. (really)**
- **Homosexuality is not sin, it is how God made me. (seriously)**
- **Abortion is not murder, because it's just a removal of tissue. (outrageous)**

Saved From What?

- **Man renames and tries to excuse his sin because we all seek relief from the conviction of our consciences.**
- **Rom 2:14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, 15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.**

Saved From What?

- And we all seek relief from the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- John 16:7 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Hell

- *Luke 16:*¹⁹ “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Hell

- **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.’ **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. **26** And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

Hell

- ²⁷ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

Hell

- In this account the poor man went to heaven and the rich man was in torment, but those are not cause and effect.
- It is seldom if ever a spiritual advantage to be rich.
- It sometimes is a spiritual advantage to be poor.

Great White Throne

- **¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave^[b] gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

Questions / Comments