

WORDS OF GRACE SEASONED WITH SALT

BIBLE STUDIES, NEWS, PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT CURRENT AND FUTURE
EVENTS

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The Horrors Of Hell

By Pastor Art Watkins

Our text today is Mark 9:43-50 which says; ***And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.***

I am going to speak to you today about the main subject of these verses and that subject is Hell. I call this message, "***The Horrors of Hell***". Hell is one of the major doctrines of the Bible. The Bible has as much to say about hell as it does heaven. It's a doctrine found throughout the Bible. The Prophets as well as the Apostles preached and wrote about Hell. The word appears about 53 times in the Bible.

Hell was one of the predominant themes of Christ's preaching for 3 1/2 years. As a matter of fact, Jesus Christ preached about Hell, and warned men about Hell more than any preacher in the Bible. If Jesus Christ were on earth today He would be branded a "***Hell-fire and damnation***" preacher, because He preached so much about Hell.

The reason he did is because he could look inside of hell and see it for what it really was. In Luke 16 Jesus Christ spoke about the rich man burning in Hell as if He were an eye witness and He was, for nothing is hidden from His eyes. Jesus Christ knew about the horrors of Hell better

than anyone else because he had the ability to look inside of hell. He was an eyewitness to it. Job 26:6 says Hell is naked before him.

If Christ spent so much time preaching about hell then so should we. But generally speaking, very few preachers devote an entire message to the doctrine of Hell. Hell is a subject that men avoid today. It's a subject that people shy away from. They don't even use the word hell anymore. They use words like eternal separation or Hades which are meaningless. Billy Graham recently said he no longer believed in hell as he once did. Joel Olsten said that he didn't know if hell is a place or torment any more. Men like him are more concerned about their own popularity and pocket book than they are about people going to Hell.

THE REALITY OF HELL

Most people do not believe that Hell is a real place. They use the word "Hell" all the time and don't even believe Hell is a literal place.

If you asked the professors in most colleges if Hell was a real place, they would laugh and they would tell you that Hell is a *"carry over from the dark ages"* or that Hell is just a bunch of *"puritanical nonsense"*.

If you asked the 7th day Adventists if Hell was a real place, they would tell you that Hell is a doctrine invented by the preachers to scare people with.

If you asked the JW's if Hell was a real place with fire in it, they will tell you that *"Hell is a myth or the grave"*.

Many Catholics will tell you the same thing.

If you ask some of the hyper dispensationalists if hell was a real place they will tell you that Hell in Luke 16 is a *"parable"*.

If you ask the "heavy metal freaks" if hell is a real place they will tell you that hell is a great big party and the reason preachers preach against it is because they don't want you to go to the party in hell.

Hell is not a parable. Hell is not a myth or a fairy tale. Hell is not some carry over from the dark ages. Hell is not a bunch of puritanical nonsense. Hell is

not a joke. Hell is a literal, physical, visible place. Hell is as literal and physical and visible as this building we are seated in here this morning.

Matthew 25:41, 46 says; ***Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.***

The Lord shows us two things about hell in these verses.

(1) Hell is a prepared place like Heaven.

God prepared Heaven for the saints and He prepared Hell for the lost and His enemies. 2 Peter 2:4 says; ***For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.***

God looked down through time and He saw how the devil and His angels would rebel against Him. He also foreknew every person who would reject His Son and in view of their unbelief and Satan's rebellion, He prepared a place to lock those people up for eternity. That place is called Hell. God created Hell to imprison His enemies, and if you're not saved, you are one of them and Hell is prepared for you and waiting on you.

(2) Hell is a populated place

Here in Matthew 25 you find a large group of unbelieving Gentiles cast into Hell with the Devil and His Angels. But they are not the only ones.

In 2 Thessalonians 1:8 Paul said, that those who obey not the Gospel of Christ will be cast into Hell.

In Revelation 20:15 Those whose names are not in the Book of Life are cast into Hell.

In Psalms 9:17 It says; The wicked shall be turned into Hell and all nations that forget God.

I've heard people say: "*Well, if I go to Hell, I'll have plenty of company*", that's true, for Hell is a populated place, but look at the population!

Can you imagine the horror of being locked up in a fiery prison with Christ rejecting Popes, rapists, apostate preachers, whoremongers, killers, sorcerers, witches, idolaters, liars, sadists, mass murderers, sodomites, haters of God, fallen angels, child molesters, self righteous church members and devils? That's the kind of people who make up the population in Hell. And if you go to Hell, that's the kind of company you'll have. The

agony of Hell is bad enough, but think of enduring the agony with those kind of people forever.

In Mobile, Alabama they used to have what they called "*the tank*" in the city jail. "*The tank*" was just one big jail cell where they put all the prisoners who were arrested during the night. If you were arrested during the night in Mobile you would have to spend the night in "*the tank*" and then the next morning they put you in a separate cell. All types of criminals were thrown in that tank together. Homosexuals, murderers, rapists, drunks, child abusers, robbers, dope heads, pimps, insane persons. Every kind of criminal imaginable was thrown in that tank together. And if you were thrown in there with them you couldn't sleep. You had to stay up all night and watch for your life. There is no rest in "*the tank*." There is fighting, cussing and somebody crying all night long. Drunk's throwing up, the stench is horrible, no ventilation. It's so hot that your clothes get wringing wet with sweat. You're given nothing to eat or drink, no beds, no chairs, you just sit or lay on a steel floor that feels like an oven. And no one cares if you live or die. It's bad enough being thrown in jail, but being thrown in there with that kind of people makes it worse.

That reminds me of Hell. Being cast into Hell would be bad enough, but being locked up in Hell forever with a multitude of godless, depraved, Christ rejecting, God hating, profane blasphemers and religious phonies would make it even worse.

Hell is a prepared place and it's a populated place. While we sit here this morning nice and comfortable, there are people in Hell screaming and crying, weeping and wailing, gnashing their teeth in constant pain and agony. Make no mistake about it, Hell is a real place, with real people like you in it, suffering real pain and agony and they are locked in there forever.

THE FALLACIES OF HELL

When I speak of the fallacies of Hell, I'm talking about the lies, fallacies and false doctrines people believe and teach about Hell.

EXAMPLES

There are people who say that **God is love** and because God is love He would never cast anyone into a burning Hell. They say that the doctrine of Hell cannot be reconciled with a God of love. People who believe this lie have a misconception about love. They think God's love is some kind of sentimental passion, that ignores sin, rebellion and unbelief. But that's not

love, that's nothing but blind tolerance. God is love, but God is also Holy. God's love is holy and because His love is holy, He hates sin and evil. Psalms 5:5 says; "Thou hatest all workers of iniquity", and because He hates all evil and sin, He must punish all evil and sin. If He didn't, He would not be Holy. And if He is not holy, then He is not God. The doctrine of Hell *can be* reconciled with a God of love. God's love demands that there be a place like Hell to punish evil doers.

There are people who say that: **God is merciful** and because He is merciful, He would not allow anyone to suffer eternal torment in Hell for that would not be merciful. They say a God of mercy cannot be reconciled with the doctrine of Hell and torment.

But the facts disprove that fallacy. The God of mercy has allowed people to suffer throughout history. There is untold suffering, misery, and pain that people endure day after day, year after year in this world and God allows it to happen.

Look at the 3,000 people who died in the Hurricane that hit Honduras a couple of years ago.

Look at the 1000's who died in Katrina.

Look at the 15,000 people who died in the earthquake that hit Iran in 1990.

Look at the 80,000 people who died in the earthquake that hit Russia the same year.

Look at the 800,000 that died in the earthquake in China years ago.

Look at the 1,000's of people who starve to death in North Africa every year.

Look at the 1,000's of people who drowned in the floods that hit Bangladesh and Pakistan in recent years.

Look at the 1,000's of people who have died in famines in India in recent years.

Look at the 250,000 people that died in the title wave that hit Indonesia a few years ago.

Look at the 600,000 people who were killed in Rwanda in 1993.

Look at the millions of babies who have been killed in abortion clinics in America in the last few years. 4,000 a day, 1 1/2 million a year die. (50 million)

Look at the millions of Jews who were exterminated by Germany in during WW2.

Look at the millions of Chinese who were killed by Mao.

Look at the millions of Russians killed by Stalin.

Look at the millions of Protestants who were killed by the Catholic church during the inquisition.

Now, let me ask you, is God a God of Mercy? Could that God of mercy have prevented those things from happening? Yes. Did He? No. All those tragedies and more were permitted by a God of mercy.

Look at the Bible

Look at the millions of men and women, boys and girls, who drowned in the flood of Genesis 6.

Look at the 1,000's and possibly millions of men, women, boys and girls who were destroyed by fire in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, in Genesis 19.

Look at the millions of Egyptians that the plagues fell upon in the book of Exodus.

And bear in mind that those things were not prevented by the God of Mercy either. Therefore, to teach people that there is no Hell because God is too merciful to let people suffer torment is to ignore all the facts of history. God is merciful, but the **GOD OF MERCY ALLOWS PEOPLE TO SUFFER**, and that God of mercy will cast His enemies into Hell to suffer eternal torment too. And don't you think for one minute that the God of Mercy won't cast you into Hell either, for He will.

There are people who say that God is holy, and He is so holy He will eventually banish every trace of sin and evil from the universe because God and sin cannot coexist. And they say for that reason there cannot be an everlasting Hell in which sinners suffer for their sins for that would be a testimony against God's holiness if such a place existed. In other words, there cannot be a place in the universe where sin is punished because God is too holy to coexist with any trace or reminder of sin.

In the first place, God's holiness did not prevent sin from entering into the world did it? It was a holy God who allowed sin to enter the world through Adam in Genesis 3. In the second place God's holiness has permitted sin to remain in the world for over 6,000 years, which means that a Holy God can and does coexist with a world of sin.

In the third place instead of Hell being a testimony against God's holiness, it will be a testimony of HIS HOLINESS. Isa. 66:23-24 says; ***And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith***

the Lord. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

During the kingdom a place will be opened in the earth and men will be able to look down into a pit and see the lost suffering in the fires of hell. And when men look into that place and see those people suffering agony in that eternal fire, they are going to see how much God hates sin and evil. And when they see how much He hates sin and evil, they are going to see how awesome His holiness really is. Hell is not a witness against God's holiness, it's a testimony of it.

There are JW's who say that Hell is not a place of punishment and fire, but that Hell is merely **the grave**. But looking at our opening text (Mark 9:42-50) this is ridiculous. Why would Jesus Christ warn people about going to the grave, when all men will eventually die and wind up in the grave? Why would Jesus Christ tell men it would be better for them to cut off their hands and feet rather than be buried in a grave? I don't care how many hands and feet you cut off, that won't keep you out of the grave, for when you die that's exactly where you'll wind up. If Hell is the grave as the JW's say it is, these verses are totally ridiculous for all men will eventually wind up in the grave.

Hell is not the grave. Hell according to Jesus Christ is a place where there is an eternal fire, that shall never be quenched, in which people suffer eternal agony.

There are other people who believe there is no Hell or place of punishment because when people die they are **annihilated**, they cease to exist. They say that when lost people die they are dead like a dog, and do not suffer any type of torment in Hell or in a Lake of fire.

But what saith the scriptures? According to John 5:28-29, Acts 24:15, Rev. 20:11-15 God will raise the lost dead from the grave, judge them, and cast them into the lake of fire.

See Revelation 20:11-15

(1) These verses show you that lost men are not annihilated when they die for they will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. If the lost are annihilated when they die like the JW's and the cults say, how could they be judged at the Great White Throne? How could a person be judged who doesn't exist?

(2) These verses show you that lost people suffer punishment by fire after they die. Revelation 20:14-15 says; ***And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.***

These people who will be cast into the lake of fire have been physically dead for years, but yet they will be raised in the future, judged and then cast into the lake of fire.

There are many lies and false doctrines taught today about Hell. It's no doubt these lies are satanically inspired. The devil wants to blind your mind about Hell. The devil and his ministers will tell you that Hell is a fairy tale, a carry over from the Dark Ages, the grave, a state of mind, bad conditions on Earth, an archaic doctrine from the puritan age. But, let no man deceive you, Hell is a literal, physical, visible place. It's a prepared place, a populated place, a place of extreme punishment.

There are people in Hell this very moment. And if we could rip open the Jaws of Hell and look inside, you would see a fire as bright and hot as anything you've ever seen. You would smell a horrible stench from the smoke that pours out of that place. You would hear screams that would send chills up and down your back. You would see millions upon millions of souls crying and weeping and begging God to let them out. You would see expressions of pain and horror on people's faces that would cause you to faint. Hell is a literal, physical, visible place in the heart of this earth. Let no man deceive you to believe otherwise. Don't believe the fallacies about Hell, believe the facts about Hell.

THE MISERY OF HELL

Matthew 13:41-42 says; ***The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.***

If you're lost and have no intention of ever getting saved, you had better have a good time while you can because you've got an eternity of misery ahead of you in Hell. You're going to a place where misery and agony is everywhere. Hell abounds in misery and agony.

THINK OF THE MISERY of being locked up forever in a place with millions of people around you who are screaming, crying and weeping as loud as

they can and it never stops. And no matter what you do to stop your ears from hearing it, it's still as loud as ever.

THINK OF THE MISERY of knowing in your mind that you'll never get out of that place, that you'll never see the outside of Hell again.

When I was lost I was thrown in jail for a few hours. Those few hours seemed like an eternity. All kinds of thoughts went through my mind. I began to think they had forgotten me and that I would never get out of that place and would never see the outside of that building. I was hysterical. Now, think of being cast into Hell knowing that you'll never get out. I don't care how hard you try, how loud you cry, how long you beg God to let you out, you'll never come out.

THINK OF THE MISERY of being tortured and tormented all over with fire. I don't think there is anything in this world that is more painful than being burned with fire. Picture your whole body engulfed in a fire a million times hotter than any fire on earth. Think of looking down and seeing your legs and feet on fire, your chest, arms, face and head being on fire and it never stops burning. Day in and day out you're on fire and no matter what you do, you can't put it out. The pain shoots through your body like a razor blade cutting you and you scream and roll on the ground and beg for mercy, but it doesn't let up. It burns and burns forever and all around you others are burning. The floor you're standing on is burning. The air is filled with fire and smoke and the heat is unbearable.

AND THEN THINK OF THE MISERY of knowing that while you're suffering that agony in those flames with all those people, that God hates you and is never going to let you out of that place no matter how many times you tell Him you're sorry.

Hell is a place of total, unending misery.

THE FINALITY OF HELL

In 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 Paul said that when Jesus comes again He will come: ***In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.***

The only words that God ever uses to describe how long the lost will suffer in Hell are words like EVERLASTING.

Consider these verses:

Revelation 20:10 says the lost; ***Shall be tormented day and night forever.***

Revelation 14:11 says; ***The smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night.***

Jude 7 says the lost; ***Shall suffer the vengeance of eternal fire***

Matthew 25:41 says that Christ will say to the lost; ***Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire.***

Mark 9:43 says the fire in hell; ***Never shall be quenched.***

Matthew 25:46 says the lost; Shall go away into ***everlasting punishment.***

Being cast into Hell is not like being cast into jail. When they throw you in jail you may stay a few years and come out. And while you're in jail you can always look forward to the day you get released. But once you're cast into Hell, you'll never come out, or have hope of coming out. Dante, the famous artist painted a picture of Hell and at the entrance to Hell he painted a huge gate. And on top of the gate there was a sign that read ***"Abandon ye all hope, who enter here"***

Once a man is cast into Hell, he might as well abandon all hope of getting out because God said the lost shall go away into *everlasting punishment*.

You stay down there 10 years, you've got 100 more to go.

You stay down there 100 years, you have 1,000 more to go.

You stay down there 1,000 years, you've got 10,000 more to go.

You stay down there 10,000 years, you've got a million to go.

You stay down there one million, you'll be no closer to the end than the day you were cast into Hell.

There is no end to the suffering, no end to the fire, no end to the pain and the agony, no end to the weeping and crying, and no end to the torment. It goes on and on and on, never letting up, never ceasing and never stopping.

There is no relief in Hell, no way out of Hell, no friends in Hell, no Savior in Hell, no kind words in Hell, no comfort in Hell, no way out of Hell. It's just endless agony, endless torment, endless Hell. Once you're cast into Hell, God Himself can't save you out of it. You're abandoned forever.

You say; how could somebody burn that long without being consumed? With God, nothing is impossible. And if He said you'll suffer the vengeance of eternal fire then you can count on suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. In the book of Daniel three men were cast into a fiery furnace, seven times hotter than any fire on Earth and they stood in that fire without being burned or even singed. If God can preserve those men from being burned

in that fire, then He can preserve a man from being consumed while he is burning in the fires of Hell.

In the Book of Exodus a bush caught on fire and it burned and burned and was never consumed. If God can do that with a bush, He can do that with a lost man in Hell.

Mark 9:49 says that everyone in Hell shall be SALTED WITH FIRE. Salt is a preservative. People in Hell are salted with fire. So, instead of being consumed by the fire, the fire will preserve them to suffer for eternity. How can that be? Because that fire is prepared by God Himself according to Matt.25:41

Salvation From Hell

Sin is so hideous to God that the only fitting punishment for sin is Hell. Hell is the penalty of sin. Men joke about sin, minimize sin, justify sin, ignore sin, but the fire and wrath of Hell is what God thinks about sin. I do not believe that any one can or will be saved from Hell, until they believe that they deserve to go there because of their sins. Jesus Christ came to seek and to save sinners, but the only sinners He saves are those who admit they are sinners and deserve to burn in Hell forever because of their sins.

Now, if you are one of these proud, self righteous people who will not admit to being an ungodly sinner like God says you are, then there is no hope for you. If you do not believe in Hell or that God would cast you into Hell because of your sins, there is no hope for you either. I've never known a single person in my life who was truly saved who didn't believe in Hell, or didn't believe they were ungodly sinners who deserved to go to Hell.

If God casts people into Hell for sin, then it only stands to reason that to be saved from hell someone must pay for your sins. And the good news is someone has paid for them and it is Jesus Christ and the place He paid for them was Calvary. At Calvary's cross, God sentenced Jesus Christ to suffer and die for all of your sins. 1 Peter 3:18 says; ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.***

Jesus Christ the sinless Son of God suffered the agony of Hell itself for your sins on the cross so that you wouldn't have to suffer it.

Now, if you would believe on Him, that is, believe with all your heart that He died for you and call on Him in prayer He will save you. Why spend another day living in fear of dying and going to Hell? Why not now, where you are, as you are, bow your head and ask the Lord to save you from sin and Hell. As you pray, believe with all your heart that on the cross, Jesus Christ suffered, bled and died for your sins and that God raised him from the dead. If you will believe and call, God has promised to save you from the horrors of Hell, for He said; ***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*** (Rom.10)

I would urge you to believe and call on the Lord today, for you don't have a promise of another day or hour. God says; ***Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*** (2 Cor.6:2)

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