

## "WHERE WILL THE UNSAVED SPEND ETERNITY?"

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matthew 25:46.

Hell is one of the most awful subjects that anyone can contemplate. Subject of sin only is worse. Sin is worse than misery it causes. One of Satan's greatest achievements has been in getting some to believe there is no hell; that God does not mean what He says about future punishment. Preach what God says rather than cunningly devised speculations of human ingenuity or man-made theories which are spun out of his own brain like web of spider out of own body. May say, don't think there is a hell. No matter what we think. Man's opinions are all right in their way, but don't weigh very much when put in balances over against written declaration of Almighty God.

Your aesthetic taste may be offended by preaching of this, but that doesn't alter facts any. Rather believe and preach unpleasant truth than believe and preach pleasant error. Rather be narrow and have teaching agree with Christ than broad and have it conform with that of Satan. Kindest thing can do is tell you truth, declare whole counsel of God, no matter how unpleasant to natural heart. Kindness in superlative degree to point out full measure of danger.

Have no sympathy with, no respect for, and no confidence in, those who try to cultivate for themselves a reputation for kindness of heart and breadth of thought by concealing from men unpleasant truths. Kindest man that ever lived was Jesus, and He said plainest things and most appalling things about hell. Man's speculations on this subject are valueless, but God knows all about it and future life, and one ounce of revelation is worth ton of speculation. People say, "I think so and so about hell." Who cares what we think? 264 chapters in New Testament. In 234 places in them God says there is such a place. Let us believe what He says whether we like it or not.

### I. The Certainty Of Hell. Absolutely certain.

1. It is natural and inevitable consequence of sin. Punishment must follow sin as naturally and certainly as pain follows inflicting of wounds on your body. Sin damns just as surely as water drowns or fire burns. "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not go unpunished." You can sneer at God and trample under feet His law, but when you have finished you will find that sins have been on your track like blood hounds of hell. Can go on in sin and sneer at judgment of God but all time your sins is gathering above you like the threatening storm, and one day it will strike you with lightening of its own revenge.
2. God owes it to righteous who have forsaken sin and obeyed gospel to separate wicked from them. Do not invite some people into your home because not fit associates for virtuous wife and lovely daughter. For God to permit vile and unholy, murderer, adulterer, liar, reprobate, and those who have defied God to enter heaven and dwell eternally in society of pure and Christloving children of God would be a sin against justice and an insult to honor.
3. God owes it to His government to see that the wicked are separated and punished for their sins.  
If doors of penal institutions were flung open and motley gang of vile and vicious allowed to run loose in society, very people who object to punishment in world to come would be first to condemn such wholesale amnesty here. Law-breaker not entitled to same liberty as a law-abiding individual. Same true of one who ignores God and His laws. Common sense ought to teach us that.

4. Hell is needed to restrain men from sin.

Take away all fear of punishment and country be turned into a worse hot-bed of crime and cesspool of iniquity. Not compliment to human nature, but only reason some are half decent is because they have to be. Take away penalty for wrong doing and lift flood gates of iniquity. Take away fear of electric chair and rope, and life of no one would be safe. Let one commit rape without fear of punishment, and wife and daughter not be safe. Fear of punishment has restraining influence. Work same effect for life to come.

5. God's Word declares that there is a hell. Biggest reason.

God says -- "For a fire is kindled in mine anger and shall burn to the lowest hell."  
Deut. 32:22.

Isaiah ---- "Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming." 14:9

Proverbs -- "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." 29:1.

Psalms ---- "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God." 9:17.

Daniel ---- "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." 12:2

Jesus ----- "Then shall He say also unto them on His left hand, depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."  
Matthew 5:41. Also our text.

Paul ----- "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 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."  
II Thessalonians 1:7-9.

Peter ---- "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." II Peter 2:9.

John ----- "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15.

"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." Revelation 21:8.

This is just a small part of the great amount of teaching on this subject. Dixon said, "If we had more preaching of hell in the pulpit we might have less hell in the community."

II. The Character Of Hell.

Nature or sort of place it is.

1. A place of the most intense bodily suffering or anguish.

"The unbelieving shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." Of course, your body in hell not be like one have now. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven," and not inherit hell either. Have body resurrection and so changed as to make it fit for unholy soul and place. Is hell place of literal fire and brimstone, or do you think words are figurative? Don't know how punishment of hell be applied. If figure is just shadow or real thing, on my, what is real thing?

2. A place of memory and remorse.

"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." Mark 9:43.

Means scorpion sting of memory and biting remorse of conscience. If go to hell will take memory with you and it will strike thousands of scorpion stings into your soul. Drunkard remember wretched home, agonizing wife and hungry children. Gambler recall ruined victims of vice; murderer ghastly face and oozing blood.

3. A place of consuming and ungratified desires and passions.

All who go to hell will carry appetites and desires which have existed and they have developed into ruling power in life. There desires exist in highest potency, but there is no gratification for them.

4. A place of unutterable shame and everlasting contempt.

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

The awful heartbreaking agony of shame, dishonor, and contempt is what often drives people to suicide. Hell is a world where every inhabitant is dishonored.

5. A Place of punishment -- spiritual agony.

(1) Consciousness of an unclean nature without any way of cleansing it.

(2) Conviction of the nature and ill-desert of sin.

(3) Remorse for past indulgences, neglected opportunities and rejections of Christ.

6. A place of evil companionships.

Banishment from the society of the holy. Only the vilest companions. Revelation 21:8.

7. A place without hope.

Can endure many things as long as have hope of a better day. No hope of better day there. Not one ray of hope for man who dies without Christ. No opportunity for repentance and salvation then. Banishment from God and all believers in Christ.

### III. The Constituency Of Hell.

Hell will be inhabited by those who reject Christ as their Saviour. All who do not repent, believe, accept, and surrender to Him are going to hell. All the moral off-scourings of the earth will be there. Revelation 21:8. That is a vivid picture of the constituency of hell. How would you like to spend eternity in society like that? If there was no suffering, remorse, shame, and lack of hope in hell, the very fact of the crowd who will be there would make me do what is necessary to avoid being in that gang.

### IV. The Continuance of Hell.

The duration of the punishment will be eternal.

1. That is the logical end of a life of continual sin.  
The longer one goes on in sin the deeper he goes. If you go on in sin until your disposition to repent is gone what is there left for you but an everlasting hell?
2. Jesus said so.  
"The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous into everlasting life." That looks like hell is going to last forever, doesn't it? If any one of you goes to hell it will not be because you are rich or poor, good or bad, wise or otherwise, but simply because you hold on to your sins and reject Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Personal acceptance of Christ is the one and only way whereby anyone can escape hell. God has done everything necessary to keep you from going there. The cross of Christ is the greatest obstacle he has placed in your way. Christ is begging you to come to Him that He may save you and keep you out of hell. Will you come to Him and accept Him now?