

ETERNAL DAMNATION

Luke 16:19-31

Introduction: The story of the rich man and Lazarus was given by Jesus to show that God knows the true hearts of people and what we see is not always the same as what God sees. Jesus pointed out that there are two places of eternity and everyone will go to one or the other upon their death. In this story Jesus emphasized the place where there is eternal separation from God and where eternal damnation will be experienced. In the Old Testament the place of the dead was called "Sheol" and in the New Testament "Hades" was the place of the dead. "Gehenna" was the place of retribution for evil deeds done but "Hell" was the name Jesus gave for the place of the bottomless pit, a furnace of fire, a lake of fire, a place of anguish and torment, of damnation, everlasting destruction, everlasting fire, everlasting punishment, and it excluded God's presence. The fire is unquenchable and there is gnashing of teeth, outer darkness, weeping and the worm never dies. Jesus used the most horrible terms to describe the place where unbelievers will spend eternity.

I. THE DESTINY OF THE UNSAVED

1. The Certainty Of Their Judgment.
 - No person will escape standing before God in judgment of their life on this earth.
 - Each person will stand ALONE.
2. Death Seals the Unsaved's Fate.
 - There is no help, no salvation, no opportunity, no chance after death.
 - Life on earth is where the opportunity is. *"Now is the time..."*
3. What Awaits the Unsaved at Death.
 - Hell Fire, separation from God, torment, fire
 - Association with the world's vilest of vile, darkness, unable to resist or do anything.
 - Memory, unable to die, will sink and tumble forever in darkness.
4. The Utter Hoplessness of the Unsaved.
 - No chance or way to change anything. God will not hear any cry.
5. The Last Abode of the Unsaved.
 - It is like a garbage receptacle, constant fire, maggots, worms, burning flesh says Jesus.
 - It is where Satan, fallen angels, the antiChrist, false prophet will be cast and any and all whose names are not in the Lambs Book of Life.
 - Torment of unspeakable degree, no adequate words to describe Hell's torments.
6. The Eternality of the Sufferings of the Unsaved.
 - Forever, eternally, ceaseless, no end, everlasting.
7. The Finality of their State.
 - Immediately at death into eternal separation and torments of Hell.
 - Will be given a body at resurrection, then cast back into the fires of hell for all eternity.

- Forgiveness, Salvation are limited to this life on earth, no more opportunity after death.

II. SOME THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

1. The Throne and Character of God will be Vindicated.
 - What can be too severe a judgment upon those who have rejected God?
 - As great as God's love and grace are, His judgment is equally great.
2. The Greater Part of Mankind is Foolish and Mad.
 - What can be worth more than heaven and God's blessings through eternity?
 - Is pleasure, advancement, wealth, attainment more important?
 - It is pure madness to reject God for anything on this earth.
3. Every Unsaved Person Should Tremble.
 - Damned this very moment to hell fire where millions have already gone.
 - Don't blame God! Salvation can be had - NOW!
4. Every Professing Christian Ought to Examine Him/Herself Diligently.
 - Don't "play" Christian. No one can afford to, so get serious.
 - God sees what others don't. Real or false, God knows.
 - Ask God to search and try you, to know you, and then tell you.
5. Everyone Who is Sure of His/Her Faith Ought to Praise God With a Loud Voice.
 - Because they deserve God's full wrath, but have been spared.
 - Once they were lost, but are now saved, and all by God's own hand.
6. God's People Should be Stirred to a Deeper Sense of Their Duty.
 - What about their lost family members? Their Friends?
 - Where is the concern for the lost?
7. Escaping Hell and It's Lake of Fire Should be the Occasion of the Most Profound Praise to God.
 - What can possibly cause a believer to ever be away from God?
 - Think of what will be escaped, what will be seen, what you will be a part of if a believer.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are not sufficient words to describe the terrors of Hell, Jesus used a garbage dump.
2. Every human being is born damned to spend eternity in Hell.
3. God offers escape from Hell through salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ.
4. Only while living life on this earth has man the opportunity to be saved from Hell.
5. Once life ends, Hell is immediately entered into UNLESS that person has believed in Jesus.
6. According to God, exactly what is your standing before Him this very moment?