

THE TRUTH WE WILL NOT FACE

Luke 16:23

Introduction: There is a fact that people don't want to face however the person of clear vision faces facts because they ARE facts not necessarily because he/she likes them or wants them to be facts, but because they are facts, regardless.

Side-stepping the unpleasant in reality is one of the great feats of our generation. It is cowardly, hypocritical and disastrous, that which we do not like, we push aside as an illusion. By doing so we are plowing straight ahead into destruction. The fact that we don't want it to be there doesn't keep it from being there.

Our generation is continuously seeking for some comfortable religion, like an arm-chair religion. We all want to go to heaven but we want to stay on the road of selfishness, greed, worldliness and our own way. If we happen to miss heaven, we want to side-step Hell, therefore we do with God what some nations have done, throw Him out of the nation, forbid His Name to be spoken or used. We even try to throw Hell out along with God.

Did God really make us to be living souls? Is there really Hell? Heaven? Eternity?

I. THE FACT/TRUTH OF HELL IS WRITTEN IN OUR CONSCIENCE

If the bible had never been written, if Paul had never preached, still the fact of the existence of eternal life would be with us. It is part of our make-up, a part of our own selves. It is written in our conscience.

1. Foreign missionaries have recorded the fact that in all their wanderings among the most savage tribes of the world, there never was found a tribe that did not have some sort of belief of life after death.
2. The American Indian of our own country had never had a Bible, never heard the Gospel, never heard of Jesus Christ, yet there was not one tribe that did not believe in life after death.
3. Missionaries who came back from the islands of the Pacific, many having head-hunting tribes, related that all of the naked savages believed in life after death.
4. In the Egyptian tombs it has been discovered that those buried within the depths were found clutching sheaves of grain with corn, beans and other foods stored in jars around them thus they also believed in life after death.
- Herein is a great universal fact! All people everywhere of every age believed and do believe in life after death.
5. If it is true that we shall live forever, then we should want to know something of the place we will be in. We should want to know something of the conditions under which we are to exist.

6. Now, when our generation arrives at this point, that there is life after death, we want to immediately bring it down to what we want it to be, down to our own level.
 - We leap to conclusions, start discussing what we heard about eternity from somebody when we were children.
 - The preachers of the past preached what the Bible said about eternity and it had a lot to say about Hell. They were bold enough to preach about it and that's more than can be said about most of today's preachers.
 - We can change the physical surrounds of Hell to suit our every whim, but the moment any of us, made in God's image, are banished forever to an existence of eternal selfishness, eternal sinfulness, eternal suffering, then at that moment our soul will know the meaning of what the Bible calls "fire and brimstone."

II. GOD'S RIGHTEOUS LAW REQUIRES THAT SIN BRING PUNISHMENT

1. The things of God are too deep for us to grasp for we cannot touch the hem of His garment, nor can we see far enough into His thought to dare make a statement of God's infinite plans.
 - A fact that we cannot deny is that our universe is a law-abiding one and that God is a God of law. God's throne is everlasting and God permits no rebellion. No world or sun dare defy the laws God created and that goes for any living thing as well.
"The soul that sinneth, it shall die.....the wages of sin is death....whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.....the wicked shall be cast into hell."
 - Breaking God's law drove Adam and Eve from God's garden and the entire earth was baptized in the wrath of God when man broke the laws of God. Our world has been drenched in blood because man broke God's laws.
 - Here is where people depart from the truth. They wave hell aside, dismissing it completely. They say that God is love and that God so loved the world that He would not have nay man perish. Surely, they say, a loving God could not be so cruel and terrible as to banish a person into a land of eternal suffering.
2. This is the mightiest heresy of our generation. People take the love of God out of it's setting. They take the wrath of God out of it's proper relation with man. they make God soft, sloppy and mundane. They drag God from His throne of righteousness and make Him suit their whims. They make God adjust to their own ways.
 - When you say that God's love will not permit Hell, you are joining that moldy group who would tear away the walls of every prison in the world and turn loose upon society every criminal of every crime because it doesn't seem fair to treat them that way.
3. Penalty is not cruel. Penalty is just. The sooner we realize that love is made possible by justice and that without a just God there can be no God of love, the sooner we will see the truth.
 - That is why Jesus Christ died on Calvary.
 - When God passed judgment on this world, then His love sent His Son, Jesus and Jesus started on His way toward the Cross. That is love.

III. JESUS CHRIST BORE OUR PENALTY AND TOOK CARE OF HELL FOR THE BELIEVER

1. The verdict still stands. The verdict is still written. It is not vicious, it is not hard, it is not cruel, IT IS JUST!
2. This justice stands forever upon the eternal laws of God. There can be no purity in Heaven without justice.
3. Jesus described Hell as the garbage dump of Jerusalem.
 - Hell is eternity's garbage pile. It is eternity's dumping ground. Hell is the penal institution of eternity. It is the eternal home of all who rejected Jesus Christ.
 - What is Hell like? Remember Lazarus and the Rich man?
 - In Hell the rich man lifted up his eyes and saw what was going on about him. He felt the suffering and agony and he spoke, pleading for help. He then thought of his brothers who were on their way to where he was. He knew what had happened to him. He was conscious of his eternal condition.

IV. THE GOOD UNBELIEVERS ALONG WITH THE EVIL UNBELIEVERS WILL GO TO THE SAME PLACE - HELL

1. Hell has been described through the centuries by preachers as the land of the lost soul, the land of death to the soul of man. It is indeed that and much more. It is a land where all is lost.
 - Only hopelessness is present, all else is dead. There's nothing to live for, yet one will live. No beautiful goal to try to reach, yet one will go on throughout eternity filled with regret, remorse and despair. There are not enough words to express the situation of Hell.

CONCLUSION:

1. God does not want any body to go to Hell. It wasn't created for people, it was created for the devil and his followers.
2. If, however, a person persists in ignoring and disobeying God, refusing to believe in God's Son, Jesus Christ, then God has no alternative but to send that person to the same place the devil will be for he did the same thing.
3. God offers each of us every chance He can to bring us into His Family and when any body does accept God's gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus, Christ, that person becomes a part of God's family forever and will spend eternity not in hell, but in God's Heaven.
4. *"Seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened.."*