

# DOES HELL EXIST



by  
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## DOES HELL EXIST

Please open your Bibles to Mark chapter nine and verse forty-three. I would like to preach a message entitled "Does Hell Exist?"

Ladies and gentlemen, I am here to announce to you that there is an awful place called hell. There is a place at this very moment where the souls of human beings are in fiery torment and in total misery. Are you living in the reality that people are dying and going to an awful place called hell? Family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers with whom you live and work are dying and going to an awful place called hell. Are you also living in the reality that one day they shall all stand before the Lord Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment and that they will be judged out of those things which are written in the books. And the Bible says, in Revelation chapter twenty and verse fifteen, "and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire." This is the second death.

This is the scene. Jesus Christ, God's Son, will be there as their judge, seated upon a throne high and lifted up, full of great majesty and splendor. Believers will be there as spectators in the background. You see, our judgment will have already taken place. The next event on God's timetable is the rapture of the church, and that could happen at any moment. It is imminent. After that is the judgment seat of Christ for all believers. In Romans 14:10, the Bible says, "We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." In Romans 14:12, the Bible says, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

The Great White Throne Judgment, for the unsaved, takes place after the millennial reign of Christ, after the 1,000-year reign of Christ upon the earth. The unsaved will be there, condemned already. How do you know that, preacher? The Bible says so. In John 3:18, it says, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Brethren, will you have family, friends, neighbors and co-workers there? Will you hear Jesus say, "Your name is not written in the book of life. Depart from me; ye that work iniquity, I never knew you"? And just before they are cast into the lake of fire, will you hear them, with tears in their eyes, say to you as you stand there in the background dressed in your robe of white, "Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you tell me there is an awful place called hell? Why didn't you tell me there is an awful place of eternal judgment? Why didn't you live like it? Why didn't you live as if your truly believed in an awful place call hell, and warn me of it before it became eternally too late? On the other hand, why didn't you just keep on telling me?" As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, do you truly believe in an awful place called hell? You ought to believe. You ought to believe in an awful place called hell and to warn your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers of its dreadful reality before it becomes eternally too late.

There must be a hell, and we will look at three reasons why. Number one, Jesus declared it. Number two, the Bible defines it; and then Number three, the holiness of God demands it.

Please notice, number one, that there must be a hell because Jesus declared it. In Mark 9:43-48, Jesus said, "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."

In our text, Jesus declared that there is an awful place called hell. Now when Jesus declared to His listeners that day, some two thousand years ago, that there is an awful place called hell, He used the Greek word "Gehenna;" and I would like to point it out to you folks what Jesus said in Mark chapter nine and verse forty-three. Jesus said, "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 Gehenna! That's interesting. The Greek word "Gehenna" here referred to the valley of Hinnom. Jesus Christ, God's Son took this indescribable place, the valley of Hinnom, to illustrate this awful place called hell. Now when Jesus used the Greek word "Gehenna," His listeners immediately thought back in their minds of that physical place just outside the city of Jerusalem called the valley of Hinnom. In that valley burned continually the fires of what was Jerusalem's garbage dump. In that valley were discarded the carcasses of dead animals and criminals, and all sorts of garbage and sewage from the city of Jerusalem. The fires burned on the waste day and night, and the worms gnawed on the bodies of those decaying animals and criminals continually. Question! Why did Jesus Christ, God's Son, some 2,000 years ago, declare Hell as a valley outside the city of Jerusalem? Why did He do that? He was using words His listeners could understand. Jesus said, "You see fires in the valley of Hinnom. Hell is like that. Hell is a place of unquenchable fire. You see where the worms gnaw on the bodies of those decaying animals and criminals in the valley of Hinnom. Hell is like that. Hell is a place where the worms gnaw on human beings day and night."

Today I am limited to the English language that we understand. If I were to use the word "suffering" today, it would not properly convey the suffering one faces in that awful place called hell. If I were to use the word "pain" today it would not properly convey the pain one faces in that awful place. Jesus said some 2,000 years ago to his listeners, "Look at Gehenna! Look at Gehenna! Look at Gehenna!" This is the best picture I can think of of that awful place, that horrible place, that dreadful place, called hell.

In Luke chapter sixteen, Jesus describes hell in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Jesus is telling a true and literal story here; it is not an allegory. Jesus said, there was a certain rich man, and there was a certain beggar named Lazarus.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried; "And in Hell," the Bible says, he lift up his eyes, being in torments...And 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." Hell is a place of torment. You say, preacher! How do you know that? Jesus said that the rich man said "I am tormented in this flame." Hell is a place of torment. Hell is a literal place. Hell is a genuine place. The same Lord Jesus who declared Heaven, declared hell; and it is recorded for us in the Word of God in Mark 9:43-48 and again in the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke chapter sixteen.

There must be a hell because Jesus declared it. But notice, number two, the Bible defines it. Hell is described in the Bible as a place of unquenchable fire. In Mark 9:43-44, the Bible 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."

What is the Bible saying? The Bible is simply saying this. It is a fire, the flames of which never go out. A hundred thousand years from today, the fires of hell shall burn as they burn now. A hundred million years, a hundred billion years, throughout the endless eons of eternity, the fires of hell shall burn as they burn now. They shall never be quenched. There will be no relief from the flames of hell, no quenching of the flames of hell. Hell shall burn forever and ever, and all those in that awful place shall endure hell forever.

The Bible defines hell not only as a place of unquenchable fire, but also as a place of destruction. In II Thessalonians 1:8-9, the Bible says, "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."

I don't know about you, but if those were the only two verses in all the Word of God on judgment and hell, and if I were lost, I would flee to Christ. I would make haste. In Matthew 10:28, the Bible says, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." You say, "There it is, preacher - destroyed in hell." Annihilated, burnt up, and gone forever! That's not the meaning of this word. That word "destroy" here does not mean the loss of being, but the loss of well-being. What is the Bible saying? The Bible is saying this. They shall be punished with everlasting destruction. They shall be punished with everlasting, eternal destruction. They shall be being destroyed forever and ever, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, eon after eon, ever being destroyed. Not burnt up, not annihilated, as some false teachers preach and teach today in the twenty-first century, but ever being destroyed.

The Bible defines hell not only as a place of unquenchable fire, not only as a place of destruction, but also as a place of utter separation from God and the

people of God. Hell is a place where the rich man was by himself. The rich man had the sense of utter aloneness, of feeling utterly alone forever. There is no God in hell; there are no friends in hell; there is no fellowship with family members in hell. You will be in that awful place forever, and ever, and ever, utterly alone, ever being destroyed. Next time some fool says to you, "I'll go to hell and enjoy my family, friends, and company there," you let him know that he will be there utterly alone forever and ever, ever being destroyed. There are no parties in hell, and there never will be.

There must be a hell. Jesus declared it. The Bible defines it. But notice, number three, the holiness of God demands it. You say, preacher! I have always been taught from a child, even in Sunday school, that God is a God of love, that God is slow to wrath, that God is full of mercy, and that God is abundant in His grace. You have been taught right my friends. God is all those things. But God requires the existence of hell because He is absolutely holy. God is, before everything else, holy; and out of that holiness, there comes the demand on the part of God that all those that sin in His universe must be judged. They must be punished. You must always remember, this is God's universe. God was here first. God made it. God made the sun, the moon, the stars, the rivers, the valleys, and the mountains. It all belongs to Him. And anything, anything at all, that violates the holiness of God must be dealt with. God is not cruel, but God is fair. God is not mean, but God is just.

Hell is primarily a place of retribution (the word "retribution" meaning a penalty for doing evil), retribution because of sin. There is no one in this room today who can plead "not guilty" of sin. All of us must plead "guilty" of sin. All of us must say, "I am guilty, for I am a sinner." I have, by my nature and by my choice, offended a holy God, and so have you! God looks at the human race and judges us to be guilty, for all of us have offended God in one way or another. It makes no difference the magnitude, the capacity, or the length of your sin. In Romans 3:23, the Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Because you are a sinner, you are condemned to die. The Bible is very clear on this. In Hebrews 9:27, the Bible says, "And it is appointed unto men once to die." In Romans 6:23, the Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death." That includes eternal separation from God and the people of God in an awful place called hell. Sin must be judged because the holiness of God demands sin's retribution.

Now, some think God forgives sin as some sort of leniency. They have the idea that God looks upon man and says, "If they could not help it, well, let it go." God does not act that way, my friend! God does not forgive you out of an act of leniency. It is also assumed by some that, since God is love, that it is His love that prompts Him to rescue His creatures. But, you see, God is holy as well as love; and it is the holiness of God which prevents Him from any generosity that might make light of sin. Think with me. If God could have forgiven one sin of one person as an act of kindness, He would have compromised His holiness which demands the judgment for sin. Those who deny the existence of Hell do so because they have a perverted view of the absolute holiness of God and a twisted view of the love of God. God is love, and that love is demonstrated by the gift of His Son some 2,000

years ago on Calvary's cross. In John 3:16, the Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The love of God is also demonstrated in Romans 5:8, which says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." And that is what makes the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ all the more worthy of judgment, all the more worthy of punishment in an awful place called hell. Every sinner in hell today will one day bow the knee before the Lord Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne and confess before God, before he or she is cast into the Lake of Fire, that hell is exactly what he or she deserves. Therefore let us be sure not to go to that awful place. You say, preacher! Is there a way out? Yes, there is a way out and it came from God. God came up with a way [made a plan] whereby He could satisfy His holiness and, at the same time, save the sinner. Only God could do that. God Almighty came up with a plan whereby He became man in the Person of Jesus Christ, and He who knew no sin went to Calvary's cross and became the substitute for man's sins. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

And if man would simply believe on Christ, he could be saved. In Acts 16:31, the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." In John 6:47, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." In Romans 10:9-10, the Bible says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." In Romans 10:13, the Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

There is only one way to be saved from an awful place called hell, and that is by way of the cross. There is only one way. Repent of your sins and turn to Christ, who is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world," as the Bible says in John 1:29.

In Acts 3:19, the Bible says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." In Acts 17:30, the Bible says, "God commandeth all men every where to repent." This repentance is a change of mind that agrees with God that one is a sinner and also agrees with what Christ did for us on Calvary's cross some 2000 years ago.

There is only one road that leads to eternal life, Jesus said; and it is a narrow road, and there be few that find it. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven to weigh your good and bad works. That idea is a lie of the Devil.

Salvation is not to be found in church membership. Salvation is not to be found in baptism. Salvation is not to be found in morality. There is absolutely

nothing in all the world that you can ever do to earn your salvation. Forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and a home in heaven only come through personal faith in Christ. In Ephesians 2:8-9, the Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." In Titus 3:5, the Bible says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us." Jesus Christ, God's Son, did a wonderful thing for us on the cross some 2,000 years ago. Jesus took your place on the cross. Jesus took my place on the cross. He said, "I'll take Norman's sins on me. I'll pay the price of Norman's sins. All Norman has to do is receive that which I have done." In John 1:12, the Bible says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." To believe on Christ is to receive Christ. To receive Christ is to believe on Christ. Simply believe on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead.

O, what a wonderful truth! Jesus died for me. That awful place called hell, that dreadful place of separation, that horrible place of torment and unquenchable fire, is my just reward. However, through Christ I have been redeemed. I have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, and I have no fear of going to an awful place called hell when I die, because "Jesus paid it all."

Jesus paid it all. My sins are forgiven. My destiny is heaven when I die, and not an awful place called hell. How about you? Are you 100% sure that if you should die today that your sins are forgiven? Are you 100% sure that if you should die today that heaven is your home? If not, I beg you to receive Christ today before it becomes eternally too late. Jesus did a wonderful thing for you. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you and nothing would thrill Him any more than to save you today.

Brethren! It is not right that you go to heaven and not take others with you. Today you are living in an area where there are thousands of people on their way to an awful place called hell. The vast majority of your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers with whom you live and work are going to hell. We all deserve to go to hell. But we have been saved. We have been cleansed by the shed blood of Christ; but they are on their way to hell, and it is not well that we keep the gospel among us.

Question! How were you saved? You say, Preacher! I was saved by faith. I know that, but someone probably told you about Christ. What if that someone had kept Christ to himself? Just think! You might not have been saved.

Are you living in the reality that people are dying and going to an awful place called hell? Family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers with whom you live and work are dying and going to an awful place called hell. Are you also living in the reality that, one day, they shall all stand before the Lord Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment? And they will be judged out of those things, which are written in the books? And the Bible says in Revelation 20:15, "whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire." This is the second

death.

Brethren! Will you have family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers there? Will you hear Jesus say, "Your name is not written in the book of life. Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you"? And just before they are cast into the lake of fire, will you hear them say to you, with tears in their eyes, as you stand there in the background dressed in your robe of white, "Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you tell me there is an awful place called hell? Why didn't you tell me there is an awful place of eternal judgment? Why didn't you live like it? Why didn't you live as if you truly believed in an awful place called hell and warn me of it before it became eternally too late? On the other hand, why didn't you just keep on telling me?"

As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, do you truly believe in an awful place called hell? You ought to believe. You ought to believe in an awful place called hell and warn your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers of its dreadful reality before it becomes eternally too late.

There must be a hell. Jesus declared it. The Bible defines it. And the holiness of God demands it!



## How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

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