

Series: Eternal Choices

C.R. 7-29-18

“The Reality of Hell”

Text: Matthew 10:28

Intro: If you were asked to define Hell, how would you do it. I ran across a couple of **definitions** in my study. **Hell:** The final abode of Satan, his angels, and anyone who dies without trusting Jesus Christ as Savior. Also, **Hell:** A place of eternal conscious punishment for the wicked. Both of these definitions are right. It is my hope today to answer a few basic questions about hell, and in doing so creating a burden in each of our hearts to keep as many out of there as possible. Let’s take a look at what the Bible says about hell as we answer a few key questions this morning.

1) Is Hell A Real Place?

- a. Scripture teaches in several passages that there is such a place.
- b. **Mat 25:41** 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:
- c. **Mat 25:46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
- d. **Luk 16:22** And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
- e. **Luk 16:23** And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- f. **Mar 9:43** 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:
- g. **Mar 9:45** 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:
- h. **Mar 9:47** 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.

- i. **Rev 20:14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- j. **Rev 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
- k. Hell is in the Bible, and the Bible is the Word of God.
- l. So Yes. Hell is a Real place.

2) How Long Does It Last?

- a. In my study of this subject I have found so many opinions of the duration of Hell.
- b. There is a belief out there called “annihilationism”. Many who hold to this believe argue that yes there is final judgment and punishment for sin, but they argue that after sinners have suffered for a period of time, bearing the wrath of God against their sin, they will finally cease to exist. The punishment will be “conscious”, but it will not be “eternal”.
- c. Jesus refers to hell as “the unquenchable fire” (Matthew 9:43) and says that hell is a place “where the worm does not die, and fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:48).
- d. **Rev 14:9** And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,
- e. **Rev 14:10** The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:
- f. **Rev 14:11** And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
- g. **(Millard Erickson)** “The Problem with all of the forms of annihilationism is that they contradict the teaching of the Bible. Several passages assert the endlessness of the punishment of the wicked. Both the Old and New Testaments refer to unending or unquenchable fire.
- h. Matthew 25:46 we have already read which says “and they will go away into everlasting punishment”.

- i. Hell is eternal. There is no such thing as half an eternity.
- j. The most sobering thought that could ever cross our minds is the fact that the rich man has not yet received a drop of water on his tongue and he never will.

3) How Bad Could It Really Be?

- a. Millions of westerners believe in some kind of afterlife, but it is one of bliss, not misery.
- b. For years liberal scholar taught and still do that Christ, who stressed the love of God could never be party to the doctrine of hell. Yet significantly, of the twelve times the word Gehenna is used in the New Testament, eleven times it came from the mouth of our Lord.
- c. Newsweek magazine had an article which said, "Today, hell is theology's H-word, a subject too trite for serious scholarship.
- d. According to scripture Hell is an awful place. The word torment is used.
- e. Look again at Luke 16 passage again and let's take note of some things.
- f. In Hell the Rich man was fully conscious immediately after death. He had memory, speaking, pain, etc..
- g. He mentions agony in the flame. Extreme thirst that could not be quenched.
- h. There was increased desire with decreased satisfaction.
- i. His eternity was fixed. He would never get out.
- j. **M.R. Dehann** "Once we have passed through the door of death we can't pick up our suitcase and move out because we don't like the accommodations".
- k. **Note** that the Rich man never said that it wasn't fair, and he knew exactly what his brothers would have to do to avoid this place.
- l. **Lutzer** "We might think this man would have preferred to have his brothers join him for the sake of companionship. But he was more than willing to never see them again if only he knew that they would be on the other side of the gulf where Lazarus and Abraham were meeting for the first time".
- m. Hell is a place of torment. It is a place of unquenchable, raging guilt, without painkillers or sedation.

- n. Satan will not torment people in Hell for he will be tormented himself.
- o. Hell is a place of abandonment. No sweet fellowship, but everyone in agony at the same time.
- p. No one to comfort, to hold onto, or to cry with.
- q. It is a place with easy access but no exits.

4) Who is Going There?

- a. Simply put. Anyone who has not put their trust in Christ and Christ alone for their salvation.
- b. **John 3:16**
- c. Many have questioned "How could a loving God send anyone to Hell"? Answer: He doesn't.
- d. **2Pe 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- e. God created man to have fellowship with him. Go back to the garden and how he longed to walk with Adam in the cool of the day.
- f. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. He wants that fellowship.
- g. It is man's choice to experience the agony of hell. His sin sends him there, and his rejection of the benefits of Christ's death.
- h. **C.S. Lewis** "Sin is man's saying to God throughout life, "Go away and leave me alone." Hell is God's finally saying to man. "You may have your wish." It is God's leaving man to himself, as man has chosen.