

A hillbilly was making his first visit to a hospital where his teenage son was about to have an operation. Watching the doctor's every move; he asked, "What's that?"
 The doctor explained, "This is an anesthetic; after he gets this he won't know a thing."
 "Save your time, doctor," exclaimed the man, "he don't know nothing now."

"GOOD THINGS ABOUT HELL"

Luke 16:19-31

I speak to you about a very difficult subject and yet I want to challenge your thought about the subject that many people are very vague about Dr. De Henz the famous radio preacher and teacher for many years, was teaching on the subject of Hell. And some preacher wrote in and said, I'm surprised that a man of your training and background, college, university, and seminary could believe in an antiquated moth-eaten, disapproved theory of the age of superstition that there is a literal Hell. No modern scholar believes that any longer.

We might state that no modern scholar really believed that the flood was going to come either in Noah's day. But it came. There was no modern scholar that believed that Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed, but it was in Lot's day. In fact, all the modern scholars' destroy themselves.

Now, do not misunderstand. I am not saying that education is going to be the thing that destroys a person. But we are talking about the thing that many people have little idea about.

A little girl asked her mother one day - mother, what does the world rest on? The mother didn't know what the world rested on anymore than the child did. So she said, oh, the world rests on one big man - a big man holds the world. Then she went about her business. Mama, what does the man stand on. Oh honey, the man stands on a big rock. That's what the man stands on. Mama, what does the rock sit on. The rock sits on a

big pole - a great big long pole. What does the pole sit on. Oh, hush, honey, the pole just goes all the way down to the bottom.

Now many times people ask questions about this. Why was Hell made, what is Hell for, who made it, and what are the reasons for it, and where is the location of it.

And why should there be consideration of the subject at all. Let me tell you why I believe that there is such a place. I do not believe that death is going to be the end of life. And that we are going back to the dust and that we cease to exist. Neither do I believe that Hell is simply a series of unfortunate and terrible calamities in which we now experience our so called Hell on earth. To be sure, sins produce a kind of Hell. The Bible teaches, 2 Thess. 1:8-9, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God. And obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.

Rev. 19:20 - They were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Matt. 25:41 - And the Lord said, depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire. A place prepared for the devil and his angels. The Bible had more to say about Hell, than really it does about Heaven. Over and over, God warns men to repent. And he says, the payment of sin without a Saviour is death. And whoever was not found written in the book of life would be cast into a place of outer darkness, in a lake of fire.

This is something that the Disciples taught and believed. It is very -

the most important reason that we find, is in the word concerning this. Concerning our Lord, Jesus Christ, who was the most compassionate man that ever walked on the face of the earth. He was the greatest man who ever lived. The one who loved you so much, that he humbled himself and died for you. And paid the debt to set you free. He told the truth about this - as the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. He talked about the awful place of torment in the Gospel.

God loves you today. The Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish. He loves us so much that he allowed Jesus to die for our sins on a Roman cross. And God does everything in his power to keep men from going to Hell.

God is a God of total love and righteousness. The Bible speaks of two roads - the road of righteousness and the road of damnation.

And that is why we need to get some idea about this - even today.

It would be very smart today to avoid that place called Hell and stay away from it if we possibly can. There are some who say if God is really a God of love, then he will send no man to Hell. Let me say, you are absolutely right. God sends no man to Hell. In fact, Hell is not created for man at all. It was created by Satan and his angels and God never intends a man to suffer the awful agony of that place.

For God loves us too much to force us to enjoy his fellowship. His love is something that allows man to chose his own eternal destiny. God's gift is eternal life.

We have very much in the Bible about this place.

It says that Hell is a real place - a fix locality. As a rich man in Luke 16. In Hell, he wanted his brothers to know that there was a place after death. And he taught them. That because there was such a place, that it was something to avoid. The describable anguish and torment that our Lord described in Matt. 13:42. Wailing and mashing of teeth.

It is also pictured as a place of vile companionship in Rev. 21:8 where all the residents of Hell are described as fearful, unbelieving, murders, whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, and etc. It is a place of disappointment, despair, distress - and a bunch of disagreeable folks, will be living and remaining forever and ever in that place.

There will be no love there. Even natural affection will be passed. There will be no singing and rejoicing in that awful place. It will be a place of carnal singing. There will be no babies there in that place. There will be no loving redeemer in that place. Or no compassionate Saviour, will be there in that place.

Sifon
Our Bible text today, Luke 16, is a story of a rich man and Lazarus. Jesus used many parables to illustrate truth. And this was a - I do not believe just a parable or a story. Because Jesus named Lazarus and he was telling something that was for real. This was the story of a rich man called Dives. And the name in Latin - is the word for rich. And a poor man - now Jesus was by no means teaching that it was sinful for a person to have money. But in what he was telling - the rich man went to Hell, not because he was rich. But because he did not have a personal relationship with God. He lived to himself. And the poor man did not go to Heaven because he was terribly poor. He went to Heaven because he was the child of God.

person. You can be the poorest person here in the city today. And that will not guarantee you a home in Heaven. Because I have seen poor people who are selfish and sinful.

I want very briefly to talk to you about some good things about Hell. That if I can challenge your mind today with four or five ideas here on this subject.

I. DELIGHTFUL PREPARATION

That is the first good thing I would like to say - that the preparation for going to Hell perhaps may be delightful and there might be a whole lot of pleasure in it for you at times.

2 Tim. 3 it says, men shall be lovers of their own selves. Lovers of pleasure - more than lovers of God. The Bible also says there may be pleasure in sin for a season.

The rich man and the finest things that he could provide at his fingertips. The finest food, the finest linen clothes, and everything was maybe pleasureable at that time.

What did he care about some ragged, sore-infested beggar who sat at his gate. After all, it is a dog eat dog kind of life. And only the fit will survive. And of course he said, I am smart enough to be successful. God didn't make me what I am - I made what I have. So let's eat, drink, and be merry with no thought of death.

You remember that the Bible does say, that there is pleasure only for a season. So that the preparation for Hell, the delightful preparation is going to last for a little while. It is a place of magnified, multitude, intensity. Where you are going you know, there is going to be a place where the thirst and the appetites of this life are going to continue. And the rich man in Hell, still continued to crave his riches. Only his craving was a million times greater than any satisfaction. I think in Hell the glutton will still be hungry and he will be thirsty for his liquor. And the lustful mind will continue to lust. And the adulter will continue to burn with his passion. And the drunkard to crave his drinks. And the drug addict crave his dope. But in Hell there will be no pleasure, no satisfaction. And these desires will be magnified and intensified when he gets there.

So one good thing about Hell is, there will be a little delightful preparation and pleasure along the way. Like the man who said he had a piece of ground when the Master was talking to him about the Kingdom. And he gave an excuse. When you stand before the judge of eternity, with a life that has been little in God's service, do you think God is going to accept as a valid excuse this little piece of property that you now have a toy that is new and you are going to fiddle with. It may be a pleasure for a season.

Now some of these things, preparation for Hell, is very delightful. Think about all the hobbies people have. They fool around with automobiles, boats, and a thousand and one things - instead of giving some attention to the spiritual life. They just don't have time for God.

Here is a young couple who have been reared perhaps pretty close to the church. But Sunday School and church kind of disappear and everybody tends to excuse them. The parents, the church, and themselves - that is, everybody except God.

They are not getting along at all without God. And many times they find their marriage going on the rocks after a little while. There is some delightful pleasure here in the preparation.

II. DISCIPLINE

It is very easy. When you think about another good thing of Hell. It takes very little discipline, to go to Hell. In fact, none at all. The way to Heaven is very narrow. It is a way of commitment and the discipline of renunciation. Now God doesn't promise us a bed of bees - but we are to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. And Jesus said the narrow road leads to life - and few be that find it. Now a lot of people are going down the broad road of pleasure, self-indulgence, without discipline. And you might say that is a good thing about Hell. It don't take any discipline to go there. Look at the rich man, he feasted and he was in luxury every day. Now the word feasting mean - glutton. He lives in a land when most of the people ate men only once in a great while. It was a luxury. And this man ate it everyday. Dives was a figure of self-indulgence. He ate with his hands - wiped his hands on chunks of bread and threw the bread away. It was the bread for which Lazarus, the beggar, was waiting.

This rich man, wined and dined, never giving the Lord God a second thought. Until he wound up in Hell. He never disciplined himself. The notice of Lazarus - he was hungry and in pain. He never saw the suffering or the need. Lazarus was a dog until the rich man found himself in Hell.

The rich man was like many people today. They see a purpose in religion. In the church, but they don't like the discipline. They don't like the preacher.

They don't like the ritual. They don't like the offerings. They are involved in the status quo business. Their gadgets, their earthly goods, their earthly plans, oh, they wouldn't say they were against God. They wouldn't undertake any of the discipline here. That is put forth, and is necessary to get to Heaven.

III. A DISTINGUISHED CROWD

This is another good thing about Hell, we might say. There are the distinguished crowd. Plenty of company is promised in Rev. 21:8. But the fearful and the unbelieving, the abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, liars have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.

According to the Bible, Hell is the company of the most wicked, the vilest, the most corrupt, and the most filthy and most ungodly. This is the crowd gathered in Hell. Here is a good thing about Hell. There is going to be plenty of company.

You say, well, that leaves me out. I may not be perfect but I don't fit those descriptions. Wait a minute. Do you know what the Bible calls those that have never been born again by the spirit of God. Those who do not have a personal saving experience with Christ are called unbelievers. Listen again - the list of those in that company. The ~~fearful and the~~ unbelieving. When you say I am not abominable. But you are an unbeliever. You say you are not a murderer, but you are an unbeliever. You say I am not an adulter but you are an unbeliever. You say you are not a liar, but you are an unbeliever.

If you have never been born again of God, received the new nature, then the Bible says you are under the sentence of the condemnation of Hell. John 3:18. He that believeth not is condemned already.

Who do you think we are to say, God will never judge me. He will never send me to Hell.

It is only his grace, by his grace, that you are here today. Now we may try to manipulate God, even to think that we can stand before him. But any man that does not know Jesus Christ as Saviour, already is walking on the broad road that leads to eternal destruction and many there be that go in there at. That is a great crowd and a distinguished crowd.

There are even multitudes of people that are going there. And they are on their way to outer darkness.

I remember one time in Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, and down under that tunnel you are many many feet below the surface of the earth. They have electric wires running everywhere. Then all of a sudden they switch the lights off. To give you an idea of what darkness is like. You look, you can't see your wife, your hands, and you look - and it is so dark that it is just total darkness.

There is no sunshine there. And this is something like it is going to be with that crowd where the worm dieth not and where the fire is not quenched.

I heard about a picture entitled Napoleon in Hell. It was a picture of the great general with a group of mothers he had left with dead little babies. Little orphaned children. Widows, who were left without husbands.

Because of the ruthlessness of war. And there were those orphans, widows, broken bodies, and empty places in the homes. And that was looked on as Hell and the conscience of Napoleon.

Now then to the fourth point.

IV. THE DURATION

NOT End in Day or two - last
The duration of this - or the continuation as we think about another good thing about Hell. Now a lots of good people are going to go there. Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy, he saves us. Titus 3:5. Now basically, Lazarus, the beggar, was removed to the gate of the rich man. He had no objections to Lazarus receiving the bread crumbs from his table. He did not like, perhaps to see Lazarus, because he was clothed in purple and fine linen - to the rich man this was a sign of royalty. Of political power even. And he was just indifferent to this man and the situation. As we think about this, another good thing about Hell, for those people who want to go there - it is going to have and should have an appeal to you. Because it is everlasting. It is without limit. Matt. 25:46, the Greek word translated everlasting, gives reference to punishment - and it is the same Greek word that is translated eternal, which has reference to life.

Aionios. If you try to do away with punishment and everlasting, what are you going to do for the other. Dr. Weiss a Greek scholar, said this word always means that which is forever in us. And Strong's concordance says that this Greek word means perpetual. It means everlasting.

The Bible uses this word in 2 Cor. 4:18 - where God talks about the things that are seen are temporal - but the things which are not seen are

eternal.

So God uses the word for contrast - that which is temporal. Like the chair or the pew on which you are seated today. Anything which you can see is temporal. That means it will last only for a limited time. It does not last forever. It will eventually come to an end.

Now a contrast to that which is temporal, and will come to an end - the things which is temporal and are not seen are eternal. The Bible says so - they are just the opposite. Now that ought to settle forever what the Greek word Aionios means in the Bible. So when the Lord described everlasting punishment without end, and in Philemon 15 Paul writes about a run-a-way slave. That he sends back for perhaps the season he parted. But he says, receive him forever. Don't take him back in a temporary way for a season, he is a brother now in Christ forever. That means without end.

Rom. 16:26 speaks of the everlasting God. As does I Tim. 6:16. So the same Greek word is used in reference to the Lord Jesus. How long, it means ever lasting. And punishment is going to be everlasting. For those who are unsaved and die in their sins. They will be in Hell as long as there is a God in Heaven. This is a terrifying truth. And yet it is a good thing that you can say about Hell. There is going to be no hope forever. The awful thing is when you die and go there, and it ought to stir up every Christian to a new zeal of soul winning.

We ought to stir up the unsaved to get concerned about. And to awaken the sinner.

The same Greek word, eternal life, is in John 3:16. And eternal spirit is in Heb. 9:14. And eternal kingdom of Christ, 2 Peter 1:11. And our

resurrection of an eternal body is in 2 Cor. 5:1. And eternal heaven Luke 16:19.

Now we have discussed about the delightful pleasure that may be good. And you don't have to discipline yourself to go there. And you are going to be with a distinguished group and company. And the duration of it is going to be forever.

V. DECISION

The last good thing that I want to say about it is that you don't have to go there and neither do I.

And yet people talk today and say maybe some day I am going to get right. The church today is still a drag. It is something that some people endure. You still love to be out in the world and you think that you are going to die and God is going to use some kind of hokus-pokus and suddenly you are going to be in Heaven.

And someone can plead with you today, and you wouldn't get six blocks from the church. But you say if someone came from the grave, why not. God, why don't you do that and save the world. Jesus said if you won't believe Moses, and if you won't believe the prophets and the preachers, and you won't believe the one who arose already = and if you wouldn't listen to the word of God and you won't listen to your conscience, and you won't listen to the Holy Spirit, and you won't listen to the preaching of the Gospel today - what else is there for Christ to do.

The Bible says comes unto me all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest. Whosoever is born of God, overcomes the world.

But as many as receives him, to them gave them power to become the sons of God. The way of God is clear today. The way of salvation. You are in the land of opportunity and you can obtain salvation. You won't be able to say, I never had an opportunity, Lord. Because he will say remember that night when you heard the gospel preached. Or that day when you were in church Sunday morning. Or that moment when someone in your family asked you about your spiritual welfare. And you might have said, depart from me. But you are going to say Lord, I never got the feeling.

And he will say, I never told you to have a feeling. I told you to be saved by faith. Depart from me into everlasting fire because I never knew you.

The Bible says that today is the day of salvation. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow may never come. Give me your heart, turn from your sins.

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A college president was preaching a revival campaign. He went down to the local restaurant to eat a meal. As he paid for his bill, he said something to the little waitress. Do you know Jesus? She looked up at him and said, you are the preacher in the revival down at the church, aren't you. She said, I'm not going down there because those folks are all hypocrites. He looked at her and said, very tenderly, the little lady - I didn't come to tell you how wonderful the folks down there are - I came to tell you about Jesus. Can you find anything wrong with him!

Great big tears swelled up in her eyes as she looked up at him and said sir, if more of the people down there lived like Jesus, more of the people out here, would come down there.

Now that is what I am saying today. If you will trust him as your

Saviour. And become bound for the promise land. One man who was preaching in a revival - you have been talking about Hell. Where is it. The wise preacher said, at the end of a Christless life.