

Title: Heaven and Hell

H12

Text: John 14:3

I want to look at a very important subject with you this morning. It is a subject that you don't hear too much about in this day and age. It is the subject of HEAVEN AND HELL. It is important because we are going to spend an eternity in one of those two places. (PRAYER)

A few years ago, Redbook magazine took a survey of Ministers in America. Almost a thousand ministers were polled as to what they believed about heaven and hell. It is interesting to me that 25%..or, one in every four said that they believed in a literal heaven. But, only 11% said that they believed in a literal hell.

Now, dear friends, it is absolutely impossible, illogical, and unreasonable to believe that there is a heaven without believing that there is a hell. WHY? Because it makes Jesus out to be the greatest liar that the world has ever seen. Oh, I know it is far more comforting to believe that there is a heaven for God's people, then it is to believe that there is a hell for those who reject Him. But, beloved, the Bible teaches ~~us~~ that there are two places to which folks will go and spend their eternity. Either heaven ..or..hell.

Now, I would like to develop this truth in a number of ways.

(1B) First of all, a brief definition of heaven and hell.

Heaven is the place of everlasting life, and joy, and peace with God

Hell is a place of eternal punishment.

Those are the basic Bible definitions.

(2B) Secondly, let's look at some common characteristics about heaven and hell.

Some common characteristics about heaven and hell.

Turn to John chapter 14. John chapter 14 verse 3. There are two common characteristics about heaven and hell that I would like you to see.

(1C) Number one, both places were prepared by God. Both places, heaven and hell, were prepared by God. John 14:3 concerning heaven, Jesus said, "and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for us. Heaven was prepared by Jesus.

Now, let's turn to the Gospel of Matthew chapter 25. The Gospel of Matthew chapter 25 and verse 41. Here Jesus said.. "Then He will also say to those on His left, depart from me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels." You see, Hell was prepared by God, just as much as Heaven was prepared by God.

And notice, if you would please, that this is the teaching of Jesus. People often say, "Well, Jesus taught about love and life and good things." True! But did you know, dear friends, that Jesus taught more about Hell than He did about heaven? THAT IS RIGHT! WHY? Because Jesus was more concerned about the place where people would go to spend and eternity in punishment and torment away from God, ~~then he was about the subject of heaven.~~ Jesus warned us to flee from that wrath that is coming.

It is so true...Jesus had a heart of love and compassion. And it is because of that love and compassion that He warns us to flee to Him.

And if all of us would feel the same way, none of us would want anyone to spend and eternity in Hell. ^{and} But, we very rarely will speak about the subject because it is offensive to people. Or, so we believe.

Dear friends, this is the Word of god. And what ever the Bible says, we must share. So, both places were prepared by God.

By the way, according to the book of Revelation Chapter 1 verse 18, the Bible says that God has the keys to hell and to death. Often times, I have seen cartoons about Hell. And you see Satan in a little red suit with a pitch fork in his hands. And he has a couple of little red horns. And have you noticed it is always a red suit. If it is a cartoon about hell, Satan usually has people shoveling coal somewhere.

But, dear friends, that is not the teaching of the Bible. The Bible doesn't say that Satan looks like that at all. In fact, he doesn't look like any monster that you have ever seen on T.V.

Satan looks, according to the Bible, like an angel of light. And he can transform himself into the most beautiful human being that you have ever seen. Satan has the ability to appear in various forms. And he is out to deceive folks

I, also, want you to know, that Satan is not the king of Hell. The Bible teaches that he is the chief prison, God is the King of Hell. He has the keys. He prepared the place for the devil and his demons.

(2C) Secondly, in regards to Heaven and Hell and their common characteristics, I notice from the bible that both places will be populated by people forever. Both places, heaven and hell, will be populated by people forever.

In Matthew chapter 25, notice verse 46..Again these are the words of Jesus. "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." There are those who teach, incorrectly, that the word "eternal" in these verses means "age". And they teach that a God of love would not leave people in a place of torment forever. My friends, that argument is settled once and for all in Matthew 25:46. For you will notice that there is life eternal for the righteous and there is eternal punishment for the lost. Hell is eternal and will be populated by people forever. Heaven is eternal. And will be populated by people forever. *So these are the Two Common Characteristics of Heaven and Hell*

(3B) Now, let's come to the differences between heaven and hell. The contrast between heaven and hell is tremendous. And in the contrast we begin to see a picture of what heaven and hell is really like.

(1C) Number one, would you turn to the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation chapter 14. In this chapter we see a real contrast between heaven and hell as to the subject of PEACE.

Chapter 14 verse 13 says.."And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'write blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' "Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

REST....to those who will be with the Lord *in Heaven*

Now in contrast look at Vs 11.....It says, "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image."

NO REST....torment for ever and ever. The Bible teaches that there is no peace..no rest...in hell. But, there is peace and rest in heaven. PRAISE GOD. (2C) Then I would like you to come to chapter 21 of Revelation. Chapter 21 verse 4. Notice a second contrast in regards to PAIN.

Oh, how we suffer pain in this life. All kinds of pain. The pain of physical deases..the pain of lost loved ones..so many pains in this life. The pain of disappointments..furstrated goals..the pain of losing friends we once counted dear..So, many pains.

But, notice what the Bible says in Revelation 21:4.."And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain."

Hay! that is going to be a wonderful day. And those people who have suffered the most, I believe, are going to experience the greatest joy. There will be no more pain..no more sorrow...no more tears.

It was said of a group of people behind the iron current who were hearing the Word of God preached in the underground, and as this passage was being read, they keep saying to this Pastor, "please, read it again..please, read it again."

There will be no more death,or crying, or pain. God will wipe all tears away. Please, read that again.

What assurance it is to the broken heart. What comfort it is to those who suffer pain, right now. God shall wipe away all tears.

Dear friends, what a wonderful promise.

But, I notice quite a contrast in the subject of Hell. Will you turn to the book of Matthew, again. Matthew chapter 8 verse 12. Matthew 8:12. Here, we learn that in Hell there will be much pain. Matthew 8:12 says, "the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness, in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." In other words, much pain. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Pain forever. Torment such as the world has never seen or ever experienced.

(3C) Third, I notice that there is quite a contrast as to the subject of punishment. Come back to the book of Revelation, again. Revelation chapter 22 and notice verse 3. Revelation 22:verse 3. This is a blessed promise. A promise that was guaranteed the moment Jesus Christ died on the cross.

Vs 3 says."there will be no more curse." PRAISE GOD. NO MORE CURSE in heaven. Dear friends, the greatest punishment was the curse of the law which says that every soul that sinneth it must die. When Jesus died on the cross, He died to pay for the penalty of our sin. Most of us only think of that penalty in terms of physical death. *For example* When we read in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death, we only think of it in terms of physical death. But, have you ever thought that that *is really not what* ~~can no possible be~~ what it means? Because both the righteous and the unrighteous suffer physical death.

Dear friends, the full meaning of what death is...separation ..is that it is eternal. It is separation from God forever. It is called in the Bible "THE SECOND DEATH." And there is no death as great as being separated from God for all eternity, in a place God calls Hell.

But Yes, there is punishment in Hell. For we read, if you would turn to the Gospel of Luke chapter 16. We read the story of a man who was there. And Jesus records his experience. Luke chapter 16 verse 23.

~~Yes, there is punishment in Hell. For we read, if you would turn to the Gospel of Luke chapter 16. We read the story of a man who was there and record his experience. Luke chapter 16 verses 23~~

Many teach that this is only a parable. No, it is not a parable for there is a personal name mentioned. It is a true story that Jesus told. He told it about a certain rich man and a poor man, named Lazarus. And the rich man went to Hell and the poor man went to Heaven. And the importance is not that the man was rich. But that he thought that his possessions were everything.....It is not a sin to be rich. ~~But, oh, it is such a danger.~~

And this rich man dies and he goes to Hell. And Lazarus dies and goes to be with Abraham. And about the rich man Vs 23 says "And in Hell, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment".....Hell is torment.....

Vs 24...."And he cried out and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in ~~oil~~ water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame." - *Pen*

Those are not my words. Those are the words of Jesus....

Notice Vs 25.....(Read Vs 25-28)

Now, what was on his mind?.....Torment.....

Why, did he want Lazarus to be resurrected?....Why?....To go and talk with his five brothers. Least they should come to this place of torment.

Oh, friends, there is torment...there is eternal punishment in Hell.

Notice Vs 29.....(Read 29-31)

and
My friends, even if someone would be resurrected from the dead, in our day of sinsation seeking, none of us would repent on the bases of that alone.....The Bible teaches that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. And it is a dangerous thing to neglect the Word of God and to turn your mind from it and put it to one side.....Fro it is the Word of God which will bring salvation to a person's heart..

So, ~~there~~ ^{There} will be much punishment in Hell, according to the Bible.

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There will be no more sin.....It would be hard to visualize an environment without sin. Just think what it would be like to have perfect people here ^{today} tonight.....You will notice that I am assuming you are not... Please foregive me.....

But, just think what ^{kind} ~~king~~ of world that would be like....No sin.... No selfish motives....No lieing....No drinking.....No self.....OH, THAT IS GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL PLACE.....

^{Now} Being one of the selfish crowd, I can't wait to be there. How about you A place where there is no more sin.

But, what a contrast.....Look at Vs 8 of ^{Revelation} chapter 21.....(READ vs 8)

Notice, in Hell there will be all ~~the~~ kinds of sin....And people filled with sin.

(6C) Then, I notice ^{6th} ~~another~~ contrast between Heaven and Hell. And that is concerning the purposes of God. Notice in Revelation chapter 7..... Revelation chapter 7.....WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF GOD IN HEAVEN AND HELL? WHY DOES HE HAVE THEM? Revelation 7 verse 9 to 12...(READ)

^{Self} (1D) That is what Heaven is all about. That is why God has heaven. For we shall worship His blessed name foreverThat is what the Bible says..

When John saw this vision of Heaven, what were the people doing? They were crying and shouting with loud voices....SALVATION TO OUR GOD...They worshipped God. That is what we are going to be doing forever. And no human mind could possible understand the joy that will be ours when we are there with him.....I Can't.....

There was a record produced ~~recently~~ ^{Few} ~~couple~~ of years ago....The record was called "FLIGHT FINAL".....How many of you have heard that record? A few of you have.....It is a great record.....One of the best records that I have ever heard to present the joy of what it will be when we see Jesus.....The writers have done a great job in trying to help us understand through Music what it will be like to see Jesus.....

And I don't know what I can do ^{today} ~~tonight~~ to impress you ^{with} what it will be like when we are in heaven....All ~~we~~ can do is look here at the Word. And to say that forever we shall worship and praise God.....

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growth

I notice back in chapter 4 of Revelation and Vs 11....There is a basic purpose of God when it says.....(READ)

God is worthy of ^{gl}glory and honor. And all things including Us/....are created for His pleasure....There is the purpose of God....

Also, you might look at Revelation 22 verse 3 where it says that there shall no longer be any curse; and it says about heaven that "His servants shall serve Him.".....We are going to serve God. There will be things to do in heaven. It will not be a state of nothingness. We will not be seating around all the time. We are going to be busy. I don't know what God has for us. But we are going to serve him forever.

But, what a contrast....Come back to the Gospel of Matthew chapter 13. Here we see the purpose of God concerning HELL....What a contrast....

Matthew 13 and verse 41 and 42....(READ).....

The judgment of sin. And all who commit lawlessness God shall pull out off his blessed kingdom. And they will be judged forever.

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~~Now~~ As we talk on the subject of ^{Heaven and}HELL, I think, that there are possible two ^{in our society}kinds of individuals tonight. There is the person who has no assurance in his heart that eternal life is his. That he has ^{never}~~ever~~ personally had the confidence that Jesus Christ, has entered his life. The person who finds himself in a state of insecurity....A life that is dependent upon how he feels to determine his faith. And therefore he lives in a state of fear as to what God might soon bring to him.

Or, it may include a person who is rejecting Jesus Christ. Or who feels he could put off making a decision to another time....And this vast group of people, both those who are not sure of Christ and those who are rejecting and ~~ignoring~~ ignoring Him....THESE FOLKS STAND IN COMPLETE NEED....A DESPERATE NEED OF THE MESSAGE OF ^{Heaven and Hell}HELL.... *It is the that group that we need to take the Gospel of salvation*

But, I see ^{a small}another group of people on the other side. Those who know Christ as saviour and lord. But, yet, have no compassion for the lost people ^{around us}~~of the world~~. Who have not seen as yet, what Jude has said "Take them from the fire".....They feel no need to do this.....

We see those around us rejecting Christ. And most of us feel that it is someone else responsibility to tell them about Heaven and Hell... But God has called you and me to share the message of the Gospel.....

How can we say that we believe in a literal HELL when we do not share our faith in Christ....SOMETHING IS WRONG....Either we do not understand the seriousness of it, or, we don't want to be pushed.....

Thus, we refuse to accept the fact that the person we meet tomorrow, who works along side of us, who we go to school with, is on his way to a christless eternity in Hell....

Oh, ^{How} ~~who~~ we need this message. All of us do.....

One, of the great evangelist of the last century said: "if only ~~Christi~~ Christians could have five seconds of a look into Hell, they would turn the world upside down."

Maybe we need to ~~study~~ study a little bit more, to read a little bit more, in God's Word about Hell. That the compassinn and love of our hearts might be just like the love of Christ. He who was here so long ago did not try to deceive men, he did not try to pass over the issue, but, constantly warned people to flee the wrath to come....

~~And Jesus, over and over again, preached to people to repent and to flee the wrath to come.....~~

And we set by and act as if there were no eternal consequences..... Oh, my friends, we need a revival of understanding, of Holy compassion, to reach ^{people} ~~men~~ for Christ. ^{Because} if they are not, they will be in Hell forever.

I wonder what it does to us? ~~It does not~~ ^{I Hope it} brings us to the decision that we have to make.

I would like you to turn to Matthew chapter 7 where we see two verse. Matthew chapter 7 verses 13 and 14....Here we see the choice that we must make.....Matthew 7:13-14(READ)

There is the choice.....And as Revelation 15:20 puts it "whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

^{Now} Oh, God doesn't want you to go to Hell.....God prepared Hell ^{for} of the devil and his ^{demons} angels.....If you go there you are trasspassing

God doesn't want you there. God loves you. He cares about you. In fact, the only thing he wants from you is your decision to accept His atoning sacrifice for you. That is why Jesus went to the cross. He died for your sin. He died so that you would not have to pay the penalty for sin. He took upon himself the sin of the whole world. And until we understand that, we will never understand the Gospel.

Because when Jesus died, he died to deliver people from Hell.

God loves us ^{Today} tonight. And he offers us the choice of coming to Him.

Let me remind ^{you} you of 2 Peter chapter 3:9 where we read that the Lord is not slow about His promise, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

Oh, what a great ^{evangelical} missionary verse....What a Holy Compassion ought to gripe our hearts as we realize that men and women, boys and girls, are on there way to Hell without Christ.....

WHAT WILL BE YOUR CHOICE? WHAT WILL BE YOUR DECISION? ON THE BASES OF WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL.....

Let us pray