

# HELL

*Think about it!*

By Conrad Barrett

Whether we believe in Hell as a final place of punishment for the wicked has absolutely nothing to do with its reality. What we believe and what is truth may be two different things altogether. Since none of us have actually been to Hell and returned to earth to testify, we must look to another source for guidance on this subject. It is worth looking into because we cannot afford to be wrong about this matter.

We learn about Hell from the Bible. Literature is replete with references to it, but literature has only the Bible as a true resource from which to draw on the subject. Profanity makes much use of the word and even though such language is substandard and slanderous, it does carry a message. When people use Hell in a derogatory form they are actually describing it to some degree and even that slang has a message which has an eternal influence. If anyone goes to Hell and has used its term in the loosest of definition, it may give testimony and credence to what has come out of his/her mouth while here on earth. Since we are all aware of the “here and now and there and then”, we should choose carefully our thoughts and especially our words, on this subject. They just may become our pretexts for judgment in the next world. Be careful! Jesus told us by our “words we are justified and by our words we are condemned”, but by the time they become more real than symbolic it may be too late.

(Matthew 12:37)

Many references in both Testaments tell us there is a real place called Hell. Several root words are used to describe it, but all ultimately lead us to the same conclusion. It is a place where none of us want to go. The Greek word “Hades” which means “the unseen world of departed spirits” is equivalent to the Hebrew word “sheol”. The meaning is basically the same.

According to the scriptures, Hell was never intended for people, but was made for Satan and his angels. (Matthew 25:41) **Human beings will make their way into it simply by rejecting our only way to miss it. That way is through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died that we might be saved from Hell and saved into eternal life.** He, alone, is our hope and

salvation; therefore, we should pay attention to Him and what He had to say, not only on this subject but on other subjects as well.

Illustrated in parables and taught specifically in a story, Jesus spoke often about Hell as a literal place and warned us not to go there. In the New Testament book of Luke, Chapter 16, Jesus tells us of a rich man who actually went to Hell. Since Jesus is the Son of God and knew about both worlds, He was more than qualified to give us the specifics. In this story He tells about the rich man and what he said and did once he reached Hell. The first reference reveals eye sight. He could see. This is followed by a prayer for water. He was thirsty and tormented in the flame which did engulf him. He was fully cognizant with all of his senses in tact, even though his body was buried in earth. What he saw at a distance is noteworthy. He saw Abraham (Father) and the poor beggar whom he had seen on earth. Now, both men had reached the position of begging. On earth Lazarus had asked for food; in Hell the rich man was asking for water. This story has many lessons and some are very sad. They are incorporated along with many others on this subject. **The resonating message is that we should pay attention to God's word now and avoid being in eternity without Christ where we will be in torment forever. Think about this!**

The conclusion reached in a survey showed that most people think they will actually go to heaven, but many of them who said so did not lay claim to being Christians. They were relying on being good as opposed to being bad. Goodness and badness is not the real answer to our spiritual equation. The real issue is, are we saved, or not? Do we know Christ, or not? Have we repented and accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, or not? If we are truly saved we will be good, but if not, who knows what we may ultimately become?

If we miss heaven and have an eternity to think about why we missed it, many reasons may come to our minds. One of our reasons may be simple. It could be neglect. Neglect may cause more people to miss heaven than anything else. The Bible poses the question: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Never let life become so complex that spiritual opportunities are completely missed. The "deceitfulness of riches and the cares of this life" have a choking effect on spirituality, Jesus tells us. Don't miss heaven because of neglect. Make time to serve and worship God now. Make preparation for meeting Christ and an open door in heaven. Remember, Hell is not made for you, so don't go there for any reason or excuse. Instead, seize the moment today and accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

An honest conclusion of Bible teaching is that Hell is a real place and it is full of fire and brimstone along with people crying and in torment. It is

total separation from what God has in store for people; therefore, don't go there.

There are many reasons to believe there is a literal Hell. One is that Jesus said there is such a place. Other Bible writers told us so, too, but one of the main reasons to believe Hell is real is because of what Christ did about this issue. Jesus died that we might have eternal life. Christ would not have died if there had not been good reason. Something beyond life here on earth is so bad that Christ was willing to die for us. He did not die because He wanted to show the world He was a particular martyr. His death was predicated on good reason. The anguish and suffering along with the humiliation associated with His death speak to this issue. Beyond the horizon of this life there are two places which await people. One is heaven where we can all go because of Christ. The other is Hell where we will go without Christ. Be prepared. Accept Christ and live forever with Him.

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