

The Word of Faith

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THERE IS A HELL

Luke 16:23,24, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 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."

Henry Ward Beecher said, "The loving, the gentle, the sympathetic, the sacrificial Savior, who loved sinning men so that He came to die for them, He calmly and deliberately, over and over again, did teach His disciples in such a way that they at that time, and since then the great body of the church, have believed that He meant us to understand that there is a future state of punishment, and that it is so great and dreadful a thing that all men should with terrible earnestness flee from it.

"He announced the fact. He did not reason upon it, nor point out its place in a system of moral truth, nor give it philosophical definition, nor consider objections to it, nor attempt to reconcile with any theory of divine power. He raised His hand to the sky to draw aside the curtain, and there right before His hearers arose the dark grandeur of future retribution. He bore witness to it as a fact. When I doubt the teaching of hell therefore it will be because I

doubt the divinity of Christ."

We are speaking to you on the subject of hell. If there be a hell, a place of confinement, a prison for the wicked, it matters not of the nature of it, it will be a place of torment. Under the most humane conditions possible in this century in which we are living, a prison is a prison; and it is horrible even to contemplate.

What we want in this discussion is to know what the Word of God teaches in regard to the state of the wicked after death. It may be interesting for us to notice this, that hell is the jail where the wicked are locked up when under indictment until the court sits and their sentences are passed on them.

They go into what is called in the book of Revelation, the lake of fire, the Gehenna of the New Testament. The lake of fire, we might say, is the federal prison of eternity, while hell is simply the county jail. No one has yet been put into the lake of fire. The wicked angels and wicked men are both locked up today in hell, awaiting the resurrection of the wicked and the judgment, after which they go to the federal prison.

You know that heaven is not the permanent abode of the believer. It is merely a tenative place to which the disembodied spirit goes to await the return of the Lord Jesus and the first

resurrection, when the believer will receive his immortal body. He is then ready to enter into the new heaven and the new earth, where he will dwell in an immortal physical body with his beloved ones through eternity.

The reason for hell and the lake of fire is apparent to every thinking man. You see friends, man is an eternal being. He belongs to the same class as God. If he dies a criminal then he enters eternity as an eternal criminal.

There must be a prison, the criminals must be segregated. If they were permitted to roam indiscriminately through eternity they would demoralize the new heaven and the new earth. We, in our civilization, have jails, state prisons, and federal prisons for time criminals who break the laws of man.

Who can raise a protest against God if He has a prison in which are incarcerated the men who violate the laws of heaven, and are eternal criminals. The universal human believes in some kind of hell, a place of confinement for punishment after death; and this testimony is not easily ruled out of court. There is no type of testimony so convincing to a jury and judge as the testimony of universal human consciousness.

There must be some basic fact for this universal belief. All primitive people believe that the

good go to some kind of heaven, and that the evil go into confinement. We may believe in a literal lake of fire and brimstone, or that the term is only used to illustrate the torture and the misery of confinement and separation from God, but the fact is, to be locked up in a federal prison today, away from your loved ones, with the loss of freedom and with the consciousness that all of your mortal days are to be spent behind those walls, knowing that God's great big out of doors are forever closed to you, that no longer can you go where you wish or come when you please, that you have lost the power of volition and of action, and that a guard with a gun walks up and down the concrete corridor before your steel-barred door in a uniform, that becomes hateful to you.

Is this hell enough for any man? If this is to last through eternity, God help me, I want to evade it. I don't need the fumes of sulfur, nor the creeping, biting worms of hell, described in the scripture, to be shut in with the terribly wicked through eternity, to be associated with the blasphemers and murderers, with the whoremonger, the liar, the thief, the dissolute women of all ages, never to see a pure face again, never to hear a baby's prattle, never to hear a hymn of praise or the folklore songs of love, to hear nothing but bitter, biting, hideous blasphemy, the gnawing of the tongue, the gnashing of teeth. The biting agony of long confinement is all that is necessary to make it hell for me. As for me, let me escape it. Let me never be in danger of it.

The word for hell in the Hebrew is Sheol. There are many synonyms in the scriptures also which mean the pit, or the lowest depths; but the word Sheol occurs 76 times in the Old

Testament.

The Greek word of the New Testament is Hades. There are several synonyms used in the Greek meaning the same place. The Hebrew word means mansion of the dead, the invisible abode and place of punishment, the lowest place or state. Or as another puts it, the prisons of the incorrigible, the place of restraint.

The reason for hell has been suggested. Let's state it again. Man is an eternal being. Angels are eternal. When men and angels become criminals they become eternal criminals. Since man is an eternal criminal, there must be a place for eternal restraint.

Man is a spirit, and there must be a spirit home for man. Since man is a criminal and traitor, a jail is imperative; and after judgment the federal prison is inevitable.

Hell was not made for man. It was prepared for the devil and his angels. Heaven and earth were the places prepared for man. God has been compelled, through man's sin, to build in spite of love a place of confinement for eternity's criminals.

In the scripture we read as a text, the entire portion of scripture, Luke 16:19-31, Jesus gives us a picture of hell that only He could give. This is not a parable, it is not placed among the parables. He said, "A certain rich man..." He is quoting history, and He gives a description of hell and of torment, of conscious, intelligible torment, that surpasses Dante in his "Inferno" or Milton in his "Paradise Lost."

It would be well here to note this fact, that during the period from the fall of man until Christ ascended and took His place at

the right hand of the Father on High, after His resurrection, the underworld was in two compartments with an impassable gulf separating.

On one side were the Old Testament saints who had trusted in the blood covenant, the Abrahamic blood covenant. So it is called by Jesus, Abraham's bosom. Across this impassable gulf the incorrigibly wicked were awaiting the resurrection and judgment.

It would seem evident that when Jesus arose from the dead and had carried His blood into the Holy of Holies, and had satisfied the claims of justice in the redemption of the transgressors under the first covenant, that He again went back down into what is known as paradise and preached to the souls or spirits waiting there, and carried them the good news of redemption, and they with Him ascended up to heaven.

Before that time, as far as we know no human beings had gone into heaven, unless it was Elijah. No one could go there because the sin problem was not yet settled. They only had a promise of redemption, written in the blood of bulls and goats. Jesus came to die for the sinner under the first covenant... so... that... they... who... were called should receive their portion of the inheritance. So we can understand this picture of the 16th chapter of Luke.

THE WORD OF FAITH

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Rev. Buddy Harrison, editor
Donald Smith, associate editor

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

February Crusade

You are invited to our All Faith's February Crusade.

PLACE:

First Assembly
207 S. Main Street
(1 block off Pasadena Freeway)
Pasadena, Texas

DATE:

Sunday, February 7 thru Sunday, February 14

TIME:

Sunday P.M., 7:00 only
Monday thru Saturday, 10:00 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

Come expecting to see sinners saved, bodies healed, and believers filled with the Holy Spirit. Call your friends and tell them about this meeting.

We want to again stress that this meeting is for ALL people of ALL faiths. Don't miss a single service.

MONTHLY LESSON

This month we begin a series of lessons on the gifts of the Spirit. For the month of February we offer the first one which is The Gift of the Word of Knowledge Part 1.

These lessons are offered free of charge each month to those who write and ask for them. Be sure and do not miss a single lesson. Write for your free copy today.

Testimony of Life

Dear Brother Hagin:

Just a note to let you know we are still improving in health and learning more about this walk of faith.

Thank you for your prayers and your teaching. It has opened up a new life for us. We have a way to go in learning but we are enjoying God's Word as we learn.

The doctor did not believe I would live out the month of August. You prayed for me the first week in August and things have been improving since that week.

We feel good having a small part in your ministry. Our prayer is that God will multiply the work you are doing.

R. H. ...

Anointed Music



There is nothing that takes the place of anointed music. It can be instrumental in leading souls to Christ, lift up the believer and cause men of God to prophesy as in the Scripture (II Kings 3:15).

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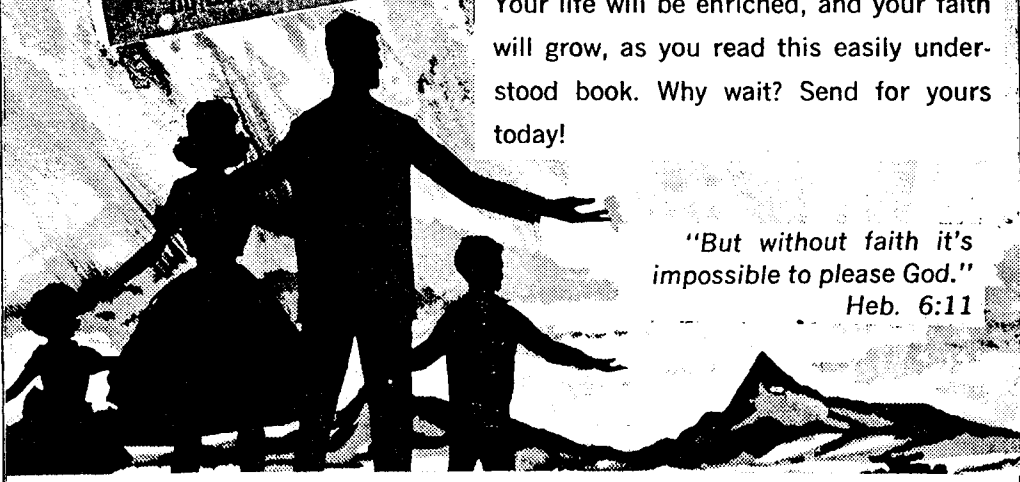
STATION	CITY	DIAL	TIME
KSKY	Dallas, Texas	660	12:00 Noon
KFMJ	Tulsa, Oklahoma	1050	10:45 AM
KFMJ-FM	Tulsa, Oklahoma	96.5	9:08 AM
WJIV-FM	Cherry-Valley-Albany, NY	101.9	9:08 AM
WOIV-FM	DeRuyter-Syracuse, NY	105.1	9:08 AM
WEIV-FM	Ithaca, NY	103.7	9:08 AM
WMIV-FM	Bristol-Rochester, NY	95.1	9:08 AM
WBIV-FM	Weathersfield-Buffalo, NY	107.7	9:15 AM
WBFG-FM	Detroit, Michigan	98.7	7:30 AM
KELR	El Reno, Oklahoma	1460	10:00 AM
KFMK-FM	Houston, Texas	98	8:45 AM
WQMS-FM	Hamilton, Ohio	96.5	10:45 AM

WHAT FAITH IS



Have you ever wondered why your prayers aren't being answered? Learn to receive the promises of God by faith. Your life will be enriched, and your faith will grow, as you read this easily understood book. Why wait? Send for yours today!

*"But without faith it's impossible to please God."
Heb. 6:11*



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The word for h
 is Sheol. T
 synonyms in the
 which mean the
 depths; but
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