

If There Were No Fire In Hell

Carlton L. Coon, Sr.

Text: (Rev 20:12-15) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- I. Hell, or the lake of fire, was not originally made for man.
 - A. It was prepared for the devil and his angels.
 1. (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:
 - B. Some have said, "How can a just and living God send anyone to Hell?"
 1. The answer is simple. God gave man a choice to do right or wrong, live good or bad, go to heaven or hell.
 2. The choice and decision is man's
 3. God gets no pleasure from people being lost eternally He sends no one to hell.
 - C. In fact, people who go to hell must make a desperate effort to get there.
 1. The bible says in John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 2. They must walk over the caring death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of Almighty God, to go to hell.
 3. They must push past the prayers of the righteous, count as nothing the preaching of God's ministers, and shut their eyes to the open doors of churches everywhere.
 4. All good must be bypassed, and all creation which loudly shouts of a great, loving God must be ignored.
- II. No, God does not want any person to go to hell.
 - A. Four Bible words are translated hell.
 1. The Old Testament Hebrew word sheol, also meaning grave.
 2. The New Testament Greek word, Hades, meaning "grave" (Rev 1:18) I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.
 3. The New Testament Greek word, tartarus, meaning "place of punishment" II Peter 2:4. (2 Pet 2:4) For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
 4. The New Testament Greek word gehenna, also meaning "place of punishment" Rev 19:20, 20:10, 14:15; and 21:8.
 5. Gehenna comes from a term meaning "Valley of Hinnom," which lies just outside

the City of Jerusalem.

6. During the time of Christ, Gehenna was used as a trash dump and it was here that the bodies of criminals were thrown and burned.
7. It was a place of terrible odor, continually smoldering and burning.
8. When Christ described the place of punishment, chosen those who refuse to accept Him as Lord, and obey His Gospel, He likened it unto the fiery Valley of Hinnom.

B. In the Book of Revelation, hell is called the lake of fire.

1. The word hell has become an overused byword by many people of our world.
2. Its frequent use may cause one to lose sight of the terrible place implicated by the Word.
3. Jesus said in Mat 18:8-9, it's better to lose an eye, foot or hand and go to heaven, than go to hell whole.
4. The bible is plain in its declaration that hell is eternal and a place of punishment by fire. (Mark 9:43-44) 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: {44} Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

III. But fire is not the only thing that makes hell a horrible place to be.

- A. There is more than the fire that makes hell terrible.
- B. So in this message I want to show you how horrible hell would be if there were no fire in hell.

IV. Hell is a place beyond description.

A. If there were no fire in hell, it would still be beyond description.

B. Hell is a place of putrefying flesh.

1. Sin in the beginning brought about disease.
2. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that disease will be done away with in hell.
3. Those who choose hell will live with the diseases of this life.
4. There will be the terrible stench of the decaying flesh of the lepers, the open running cancerous sores, and the bloody spittle of those with diseased lungs.
5. Every disease with which sin has plagued men will be present there.
6. All fever, pain, torture, and suffering will be present forever; no death to eliminate it, no hospitals for treatment, no doctors to cure.
7. Screams of the anguished will be a permanent part of hell's society.
8. I've seen people who were glad to die because of a disease that racked their body, but if you go to hell you'll have that disease there.

C. Hell is a place of weeping.

1. How sad to see someone cry.
2. Here we are able to get away from the sorrowful and see bright faces, but not in hell.
3. Everyone there will be weeping, night and day.

4. Sorrow will prevail.
5. There will be no one to comfort or give a kind word or brush away the tears.
6. When you remember the greatest time of sorrow in your life; the death of a loved one, news of global disaster, sickness of one dear to the mistreatment of an innocent child, the dissolution of a marriage; you have not yet experienced, even in the smallest degree, the sorrow of hell.

D. Hell is a place of memories.

1. The mind of man will still function in hell. Luke 16. "Son Remember"
2. The people in hell will forever remember.
3. They will hear the prayers of the saintly mother, the counsel of a caring father.
4. They will hear the pleas of a Christian husband or wife.
5. They will remember times of conviction when the Holy Spirit dealt with their heart, times when they almost decided to accept Christ.
6. Forever and forever, they will remember.

E. Hell is a place of no rest.

1. Here, even the most weary can find some rest.
2. If the body cannot provide it, the mind will become unconscious and rest will come.
3. Not so in eternal hell.
4. In hell there will never be rest from physical, mental or spiritual turmoil.
5. Exhaustion is eternal.
6. In New Orleans i saw people sleeping on concrete with newspaper for a covering.
7. But in hell you won't even have that.

F. Hell is a place of profanity.

1. It will be like the condition described in Rev 16:11, blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores."
2. You'll hear screaming and cursing, the awful filth that can come from man's mouth.

G. No song will ever be sung in hell.

1. The music of hell will be the moaning and screaming of the lost.
2. No kind words will ever be spoken.

H. Hell is a place of ever present evil.

1. Those terrible demons described in the New Testament and countless thousands more like them will be the neighbors of those who go to hell.
2. Time will never remove the sinister, chilling fear of the devil's presence.
3. He will be the next door neighbor of the person in hell, forever.

V. Hell is a place without the presence of God.

A. Since the earth was formed, God's presence has been known. Gen 1:2.

1. It is almost inconceivable that there is a place not touched by the refreshing presence of God.

2. Yet hell is such a place.
- B. Because God's presence is absent from hell, there is no love in hell. God is love. I John 4:8.
 1. In times of hurt, pain, or suffering what a source of strength just to know someone loves.
 2. It will never be so in hell.
 - C. Hell is a place of darkness, a place of weakness, a place of lies, of utter confusion.
 1. Hell is a place of corruption, of turmoil, of eternal death, of unbridled passions.
 2. The desires and passions which literally drove and possessed men in this life will continue to do so with never any relief from their rages.
 - D. In hell the greedy will want more and more and have nothing.
 1. Jealousy and envy will drive men to madness, but it will never abate
 2. Hatred and anger will be rampant.
 3. Fear will reign thick as darkness.
- VI. Hell is a place of eternal separation.
- A. Hell destroys all hope of togetherness.
 1. There will not be any looking forward to a friend's visit or a child's returning home.
 2. There will be no time for being alone with one's companion.
 3. Neither will there be any more tears of joy, hugs and hearts leaping with excitement.
 4. Hell separates, not for a day, not for a short while, but forever.
 - a. Lovers will be separated.
 - b. Brothers and sisters will be parted.
 - c. Dad will never again look upon his son.
 - d. Friends will never again know the joy of good times.
 5. Many times the only way I've been able to comfort someone in times of bereavement were with the words, "Thank God one day we'll be together again."
 6. But if you go to hell you'll be separated for eternity.
 - B. Hell will never know the greenness of spring, the brightness of summer sun, the colors of autumn, the whiteness of newly fallen snow.
 1. Hell will never know the smile on a friendly face or the dancing eyes of hopeful expectancy.
 2. Hell will never know joy, but residents can see the joyful reunion of the redeemed and know that one step not taken, one confession never uttered, has forever separated them from God.
 3. The roll call of hell's residents will be long and infamous.
 4. Some of them are listed in Revelation 21:8.(Rev 21:8) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
 5. The cowardly will be there, the faithless and unbelieving, the corrupt, vile and

polluted; the dredges of earth's society; murderers; the pornographer and smut peddlers; those who traffic in sex; those who worshiped idols; all liars; gamblers; and all whose names are not found in the Book of Life. Rev 20:15.

6. The church attender who never got serious with God, the church member who once was saved but turned back to the things of the world, the good moral person, the one who was a good neighbor but never accepted Christ as Lord, the one who felt that too many good times would be missed if he served God, the person who was planning to get saved next weekend, the person whose intentions were good; they will all be there.
 7. The person who wouldn't go to church, the person who wouldn't pay his tithe or give in the offering.
 8. The grumbling, complaining, the gossiper, the unfaithful.
 9. The roll call goes on.
 10. But hell is not for the saints, those who believed and through faith accepted Christ as Lord of their lives, who obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. Rev 21:3-4. (Rev 21:3-4) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. {4} And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for former things are passed away.
- D. This sermon is not a mythical story, but factual truth based on God's Eternal Word.
1. All of it will soon be a reality.
 2. Every one of us will answer to a roll call.
- E. Which one will you answer?
- F. God does not send nor does He want anyone to go to Hell.

The choice is yours.