

THE POPULATION OF HELL

Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Hell is not a popular subject. In fact, hell is considered a “negative” subject and those that preach about it are often considered radical, crackpots, religious zealots, a real “piece of work.”
2. Many people who claim to be Christians would ridicule and revile me for speaking on this topic. In fact if I preached this in some locales some would refuse to listen and walk out.
3. ****** However, when one preaches the truth about hell he is in good company.
 - A. In the NKJV the word “hell” (*geenna* or *gehenna*) is used 13 times (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mk. 9:43, 45, 47; Lk. 12:5; Jas. 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:4)
Note: “hell” appears 23 times in the KJV, but in 10 of those instances it is a mistranslation of the Greek word *haides* which is the place/state of disembodied spirits awaiting the final judgment; Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Lk. 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 1:18; 6:68; 20:13, 14.
 - B. In 11 of those 13 usages, Jesus is the one speaking of “hell.” Therefore, when we speak the truth about “hell,” we are in good company!
4. **3** I think most of us are aware of how the Bible describes the terribleness of “hell”:
 - A. “outer darkness” (Matt. 25:30),
 - B. “lake of fire” (Rev. 20:14-15),
 - C. Place of eternal torment: 1) “everlasting fire” (Matt. 25:41; word translated “everlasting” in relation to “fire” is the same word translated “eternal” in relation to “life”; *aionios*); 2) “tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev 20:10); 3) “the fire that shall never be quenched – 44 where ‘Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.’” (Mk. 9:43-44).
5. ****** Very importantly, and quite unfortunately, “hell” is where most will reside in eternity! Matt. 7:13-14
6. **4** Therefore, it’s important for us to consider who will make up hell’s population.

II. DISCUSSION:

I. **5** The Devil and His Angels

- A. **Rev. 20:10:** “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”
- B. **Matt. 25:41:** “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”
- C. Hell is a prepared place! But not for man! 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 7:13-14
- D. I don’t want to spend even one minute with the devil, much less eternity! How about you?

2. **6** People That Satisfy the Lusts of the Flesh

- A. **Gal. 5:19-21:** “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”
- B. **1 Cor. 6:9-10:** “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”
- C. Sin is serious! Rom. 6:23; Isa. 59:1-2; 1 Jn. 2:2 (“propitiation”)

- D. We must control our lusts! **Rom. 8:7-8:** “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”; **Jas. 4:4:** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
- E. Are these the type of folks you enjoy spending time with?

3. 7 People Not in the Lord’s Body

- A. **Eph. 5:23:** “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”
- B. I Cor. 15:24; Col. 1:13, 18—kingdom, body, and church are one and the same!
- C. The saved are the body of Christ (Acts 2:47).
- D. Salvation is “in Christ” (2 Tim. 2:10; **Eph. 1:22-23:** “...the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”).
- E. We get “in Christ” through baptism (Gal. 3:27); we are also “baptized into one body” (I Cor. 12:13); or “added to the church” (Acts 2:41, 47)---SAVED! Grandma Edna
- F. Would you want to spend one moment in a place where there were no faithful brethren?

4. 8 Religious People

- A. Not all religious people, even those claiming to be Christians, will be saved!
- B. To preach such a message is highly unpopular, to say the least! For example, I was once publically labeled as a “church-basher.”
- C. But consider the original preacher of that message! **Matt. 7:21-23**
- D. I have no doubt that many people who are members of false churches are very sincere people. But a person can be sincere and still be wrong and lost! **Acts 26:9:** “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.”; **Acts 8:3:** “...he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”; **I Tim. 1:13:** “...a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man”; **Acts 23:1:** “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”; **Acts 22:16:** “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
- E. Must love and study God’s word to know the truth! **James 1:21:** “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (Lk. 8:15); **Acts 4:12:** “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”; Jn. 8:32; **2 Thess. 2:10-12:** “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
- F. Would you like to spend eternity in the company of religious people the Lord will tell, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”?

5. 9 Good Moral People

- A. People argue that good moral people can’t be lost
- B. But I can read of a “good moral man” in the Bible that was lost! **Acts 10:1-2, 22—BUT—Acts 11:14!**
- C. Leading a “good moral life” is certainly part of being a faithful Christian (**Titus 2:11-12:** “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and

worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,”), but only Christ saves! If we can be saved by morality then we can save ourselves without Jesus! Acts 4:12 Grandma Edna

- D. Perhaps this group comes closest to those with which we might want to associate. But, not in an eternal hell “*prepared for the devil and his angels*”!

6. **10 Lukewarm Church Members**

- A. It is not enough to be baptized into the right “church”! Just because one has been properly baptized and the Lord has added that person to His church is not enough!
- B. **Rev. 3:15-16:** “*I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. I 6 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.*”
- C. We must be faithful! 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 1:5-11; Rev. 2:10
- D. Some are not faithful in attendance, worship, giving, teaching, studying, praying, getting involved; yet still believe they will get to heaven (**Jas. 2:14-26; Matt. 25:30:** “*And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*”).
- E. What a pity to obey the gospel then be lost due to lukewarmness! Surely no one would want to spend an eternity with such individuals!

7. **11 People Lacking (Refusing to Do) In Good Works**

- A. **Matt. 25:31-46**
- B. Remember Dorcas and her good works “...which she did” (Acts 9:36)?
- C. **Titus 2:14:** “*who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*” We can faithfully attend every service, take notes during the sermon, sing heartily unto the Lord, etc., etc. and still be lost! **Jas. 4:17:** “*Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*”; **Jas. 1:27:** “*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*”
- D. Hell is such a cruel and ugly place filled with cruel and ugly people unconcerned about the needs of others. Is that where you want to go?

8. **12 People Who Don’t Know God or Disobey Him**

- A. **2 Thess. 1:7-9**
- B. Some are atheists and many don’t believe in the personal God of the Bible.
- C. Some are just “half” believers. Our belief has two parts (Heb. 11:6).
- D. Only power of salvation is the gospel (Rom. 1:16; not creeds, councils, catechisms).
- E. **Rev. 22:14:** “*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.*”; Heb. 5:9
- F. Discuss what obedience involves (**1 Jn. 2:3-5**): H-B-R-B-F (Rom. 6:16-17; **Col. 1:21-23**).
- G. Would you relish time spent with those whose estimation of God and His Son were so low and trivial?

9. **13 People Who’s Names Are Not Written in the Book of Life**

- A. **Rev. 20:15:** “*And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*”
- B. This is God’s roll of the faithful, not our church directory!

- C. Our names are written there when we obey (**1 Cor. 8:3**: “But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.”; **1 Jn. 2:3**: “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”), but can be blotted out (**Matt. 7:23**: “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”; **Rev. 3:5**: “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”).
- D. We may have our names written in a lot of important places (Who’s, Who; etc.), but if our name is not written in “the book of life,” we’ve missed it all! **Matt. 16:26**
- E. It should thrill us that God knows us in terms of salvation!

III. CONCLUSION: 14

- 1. Hell is a terrible place of eternal punishment (**2 Thess. 1:9**: “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,”).
- 2. We too are destined to be one of hell’s inhabitants forever and ever unless we obey! **2 Cor. 5:10-11a**; **Heb. 10:31**: “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Based on a sermon by Titus Edwards (*Gospel Sermons by Three Generations of Gospel Preachers*, Edwards Publishing, 1997, pp. 91-92).