

Things Not Found in Hell

Mark 9:42-48

I. INTRODUCTION: I

I. 2 Often the subject of “hell” is treated lightly.

A. Some flat out deny either that hell exists or that hell involves eternal punishment:

(1) Materialists like Jehovah’s Witnesses deny the existence of hell and argue for “annihilation.” “When you’re dead, you’re dead all over just like Rover.”

(2) Some of our brethren (e.g., Homer Hailey, *God’s Judgments & Punishments*) deny hell involves eternal punishment, hence, they teach annihilationism by default. Consider brother Hailey’s position:

“These [cvt, Sodom & Gomorrah] are set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire...If they serve as an example, what do they teach except that those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire are to exist no more?” pp. 141-142).

B. Certainly most don’t want to hear about hell and most don’t want to preach about it.

C. Preaching on hell may have cooled down, but hell hasn’t!

2. Hell is an important Bible concept.

A. The word *hell* (Gr. *geenna* or *Ghenna*) is used 12 times in the New Testament (NKJV).

B. Of its 12 usages, 11 are by one very prominent Bible preacher...Jesus! Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mk. 9:43, 45, 47; Lk. 12:5 (12th time is in Jas. 3:6)

3. We need to understand some basic facts about hell:

A. Hell is real!

(1) Mentioned in OT: **Psa. 9:17:** “*The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.*”

(2) Mentioned in NT: Matt. 5:22; Mk. 9:43-48; Matt. 25:41, 46; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:8; Matt. 10:28

B. The vast majority of people are going there! **Matt. 7:13-14:** “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*”

(1) Alien sinner: **2 Thess. 1:8-9:** “*in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*”

(2) Religious person: **Matt. 7:21-23:** “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

- (3) Hypocrite: **Matt. 23:15:** *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.”*
- (4) Lukewarm Christian: Rev. 3:15-16
- (5) Those in **Rev. 21:8:** *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*
- (6) Unprofitable Christian: **Matt. 25:30:** *“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
- (7) Those adding to God’s word: Rev. 22:18-19

C. Those in heaven have a conscious, eternal existence; and so do those in hell!

Matt. 25:41, 46: *“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: 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

Lk. 16:19-31

Rev. 14:11: *“And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”*

2 Thess. 1:7-9: *“and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,”*

Mk. 9:42-48 (“destruction”: Vine: “loss of well-being, not of being”!)

- 4. So, besides the fact that hell is real, is hot, and most people are going there; what’s the big deal?
- 5. **3** The utter “awfulness” of hell can only be understood and fully appreciated when we consider some “Things Not Found in Hell.” Today let us consider 10 things not found in hell:

II. DISCUSSION:

I. **4** Light:

- A. There will be no light in hell, because hell will be a place of total darkness: Matt. 25:30 (“outer darkness”); **22:1-14**; 2 Pet. 2:17: those destined to hell are “reserved [to] the blackness of darkness forever”; Jude 13
- B. I’ve read that if one is placed in total darkness he’ll go blind in just a few months.
- C. I’ve been in total darkness once (~1 min, Carlsbad Cavern); it was a frightening experience!
- D. Can you imagine being in total darkness forever! “things that go bump in the night”!

2. **5** Mercy:

- A. Story of rich man and Lazarus tells us there will be no mercy there:

Lk. 16:24-25: *“Then 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.’*

25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.'"

- B. No wonder the Hebrew writer said, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb. 10:31):

Heb. 10:26-31: "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The LORD will judge His people.' 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

3. **6 Comfort:**

- A. Rich man desired only a simple drop of water to cool his tongue, but none was available:

Lk. 16:24: "Then 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.'"

- B. Have you ever been really thirsty? How comforting was it when you finally drank a glass of ice cold water? (Philippines)
- C. No such comfort will be available in hell for all eternity! Forever, forever and forever! Any wonder then that hell was not designed for man! **Matt. 25:41:** "...everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

4. **7 Possessions:**

- A. Rich man was stripped of all his possessions:

Lk. 16:25: "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.'"

- B. Wise men have always recognized this important fact:

Job 1:21: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there."

Eccl. 5:15: "As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand."

1 Tim. 6:7: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

- C. No "Lazy-Boy," no "comfy couch," no "Sleep Number bed," and certainly no A/C!
- D. Have you ever thought about that?!

5. **8 Transportation:**

- A. Even under good conditions no one likes to have their freedom of movement restricted!
- B. Have you ever had your car being worked on and been left "without wheels"?
- C. "Life without parole" is maybe the worst punishment our legal system can mete out.
- D. The rich man was given "eternity without parole"! He was "stuck" with no way out!

Lk. 16:26: *“And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.”*

E. BTW: This fact completely nullifies the Catholic doctrine of “Purgatory.”

6. **9** Communication:

- A. Under solitary confinement in the French penal colony of “Devil’s Island” no prisoner-to-prisoner or prisoner-to-guard communications were allowed.
- B. Of all the terrible conditions these prisoners endured, lack of communication was cited by most of them as the worst punishment of all. “One is the loneliest number of all.”
- C. From all indications, such will be the case in hell:

Lk. 16:26-31: *“‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ 27 Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ 29 Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”*

- D. The view I get from the Scriptures concerning hell is that the vast majority will be there, yet ironically they will be all alone!

7. **10** Desire for company:

- A. Some foolishly say, “If _____ goes to hell, then I want to go there to be with them.”
- B. But, the rich man had no such desire for company:

Lk. 16:27-28: *“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, **lest** they also come to this place of torment.’”*

- C. I’m somewhat of an introvert and sometimes enjoy my peace and quiet time alone, but I couldn’t stand being alone for all of eternity!

8. **11** Unbelievers or infidels:

- A. Certainly all unbelievers and infidels are destined for hell:

Rev. 21:8: *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

- B. But, by the time they get there they won’t be unbelievers or infidels any longer!

Rom. 14:11: *“For it is written: ‘As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.’”*

Phil. 2:10-11: *“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

- C. Can you imagine living in an eternal hell with the constant nagging thought: “If I had only...”

9. **12 Faithful Christians:**

- A. No faithful Christians ever need worry about going to hell:

Rev. 2:10: *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*

2 Tim. 4:8: *“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

- B. But, we must always remember that our salvation is conditional!

Col. 1:21-23: *“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,”*

1 Cor. 15:58: *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”*

10. **13 Hope:**

- A. A man can put up with a lot of privations for long periods of time: lack of adequate water, lack of adequate food, lack of shelter (e.g., Tom Hanks in the movie *Castaway*).

- B. But, there is one thing no man can do without for very long...hope!

(1) In the movie *Castaway* the main character was stuck on a South Pacific island due to a plane crash.

(2) When he lost hope he contemplated suicide (fortunately he regained hope!).

- C. If we are lost in hell we will end up in the ultimate “hopeless” situation!

Job 17:15: *“Where then is my hope? As for my hope, who can see it?”*

(1) Living this life without God is described as hopeless (**Eph. 2:12:** *“that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”*).

(2) But at least this hopelessness is only temporary **if** we turn to God and obey the gospel! **Eph. 2:13:** *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”*

(3) But, the hopelessness of hell will last forever, and ever; no wonder: **Matt. 22:13:** *“Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”*

III. CONCLUSION: 14

1. When we consider the things not found in hell is it any wonder Jesus said:

Matt. 10:28: *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

2. When we consider the things not found in hell is it any wonder Jesus told us to employ such drastic measures to avoid going there? **Mark 9:43-48**

3. How shall we keep from going there?

- A. Obey the gospel! 2 Thess. 1:7-9
 - B. Know God! 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Jn. 2:3-5; **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.”*
4. Have you obeyed the gospel? Do you really know God? Come now before it's too late!

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