

Hell-A Reality Or A Fairytale?

1. Most of us, since we were of a very early age, have heard of the place called "Hell." We have heard it spoken of as a place of nothing but torment and torture; reserved for all who do wrong, and who refuse to believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ. We have heard of how all who do such, will be sent to Hell, and burn eternally in the fires thereof. Even though Hell is truly a real place, and it is a place with fire which shall never be quenched, it is up to only one person whether or not we will go there when we die. It is not up to the devil, and neither is it up to the Lord Jesus, or God Almighty. Who then is it up to? It is entirely up to each individual person, whether or not they will spend eternity in Hell. For God has given each one of us a choice, as to whether or not we want Hell to be our final destination.

2. The world has taken the word Hell, and changed it into a word of vulgarity; rather than the name of the place of eternal destruction for the lost. People believe that if they use the word Hell, that they have committed a sin. Without a doubt, the word should be kept in its proper perspective. But the word Hell is seen throughout the Bible, and it is definitely speaking of a place; not a word of vulgarity. Human decency will not allow the word Hell to come forth out of the mouth of people who claim to be living a Godly life. This is because society has forgotten all about what the word Hell truly means, or stands for.

The word Hell is not just a word which we speak out of our mouth every time something goes wrong; or whenever we do not get our way; but truly a place of eternal damnation, for all who do not accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

It is certainly not a place of pleasure, as we will see from God's Word; but a place of eternal pain and suffering and torment.

3. Our society has gotten to the point, to where they are not at all concerned about where they will spend eternity. Most people never give it a second thought. Living right, or in a way that pleases God, is a thing which is further from most people's mind in our day in time, than ever before. They have gotten so tied up in the pleasures and affairs of the world, that they

never take the time to think any further than what is going on right now. They just live as though this world is going to last forever, and that their life on this earth is never going to end. But let us never forget what God's Word tells us in Heb. 9:27-28: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." You can be most assured, that on earth is going to end; and much sooner than most people think. The majority of the prophecies which we are told of in God's Word; those which are to take place before Jesus' return for his Church have already been fulfilled. And God tells us, that when we see such things, watch out; for his coming is close at hand. We read in Matt. 24:44: "***Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.***" After this, shall be the great seven-year tribulation period, Jesus' second return to the earth, the one-thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth (the Millennium), and then the great white throne judgment. We are told of these great events, in Revelation Chapters 4-20. We are also told by Jesus in the Book of Matthew, the details of the final judgment, which shall follow his one-thousand year reign upon the earth. We read in Matt. 25:31-41: "***When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of his glory. And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 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.***" We are also told in the book of Psalms,

what shall happen to the wicked, and all who forget about God. In Psalm 9:17 we read: "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God."

A. Wicked-Hebrew-rasha (raw-shaw): morally wrong, a bad or condemned person (of sin), those guilty of sin, those declared wrong or ungodly, or servants of the devil.

B. Forget God. Hebrew-shakeach (shaw-kay-akh): to ignore, or to give no time or attention to.

C. I believe at this point, I shall bring up a belief, which is held by many Christians, concerning the place which we call Hell. Many believe that when a person dies physically, that their soul does not go into the burning fires of Hell immediately. They believe in a place where the lost are held captive until the Great White Throne Judgment. Let us read of the parable taught by Jesus, in Luke 16:19-31: ***"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 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. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us, and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."*** It is very evident that the rich man is already entered into the

flames of the fires of Hell. And he is wanting more than anything else, to be able in some way or another, to be able to send a warning to those he loves; to never come to the horrible place where he has been sent. Why would Jesus give us an example of such a terrible thing, if He knew that it would never happen? I feel certain that there are people in Hell this very moment, who would give anything to be able to warn their loved ones who remain upon this earth, to make certain that they never come to that horrible place; just as this rich man wanted to do. Let us read in Rev. 20:11-15, of the Great White Throne Judgment: "And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which was the Book of Life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." When God's Word speaks of death and Hell being cast into the lake of fire, it is speaking of those people who have made a covenant with Hell, or who have chose to live their lives in accordance with the rules which come from the devil, rather than from the Word of God.

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According to what we read in this scripture passage, if those who are lost go directly into the fires of Hell at the time of their physical death, then they must be called up out of Hell at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment.

4. If we read God's Word with an open mind, He will help us to know and to realize, that Hell is not just a fairy tale, but a real place; where people who are not saved by the blood of Jesus will spend eternity; burning in a lake of fire. Therefore, we should continually give praise and honor unto Jesus. We read in Psalm 86:12-13: "I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest Hell."

A. I will praise thee O Lord my God. We as children of God should praise God continually. He should be the Lord of every area of our life, and we should never stop praising our God Jehovah, for sending his Son Jesus Christ; to save us from our sins by his blood, and for allowing us to escape the eternal tortures of Hell.

B. With all my heart. We should not only praise the Lord our God with our

mouth, but praise should continually be flowing from our heart.

C. And I will glorify thy name forevermore. Hebrew-kabad (kaw-bad): to honor, to promote the name of, to lift up, or to exalt.

D. For evermore. Hebrew-owlam (o-lawm): eternally, continually, or to have no ending.

E. For great. Hebrew-gadawl (gaw-dole): exceedingly wonderful and powerful.

F. Is thy mercy. Hebrew-cheched (kheh-sed): kindness, piety, goodness, or love.

G. Toward me. God is truly a God of mercy, toward anyone who will come unto Him with a repentant heart, and allow Him to shed his mercy and grace upon them. God is no respecter of persons. As we are told in Romans 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

H. And thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest Hell. Anyone who will repent of their sins, and ask the Lord Jesus to come into their heart, may receive deliverance from Hell forevermore.

5. I love the Lord; because of in spite of my unworthy nature; and even though I deserved to burn in Hell forevermore; He shed his blood for my sins, and took all my unrighteousness upon Himself; allowing me to receive by faith, Him as my personal Savior. And now I can stand righteous before my Heavenly Father; because He no longer sees my filthy unrighteousness, but sees only the righteousness of Jesus when He looks at me. We read in Psalm 116:1-6: "I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live.

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of Hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and He helped me."

A. He hath heard my supplications. Hebrew-tachanwn (takh-an-oon): earnest prayers; as to have one (Jesus) stoop and look down upon in grace and mercy; having compassion upon one who calls upon thy name.

B. Because He hath inclined his ear unto me. Praise God, we serve a Savior and a God, who's ear is always open to our cries. Every time we call upon Jesus, He never fails to hear us; regardless of what the situation may be. He hath promised us in Heb. 13:5, that He would never leave us nor forsake us. Regardless of how alone we may feel, or how long it may seem since we have heard his voice, Jesus is always right beside us, through his Holy Spirit. And every time we call upon Him with a sincere heart, He will always hear us, and

answer our prayers.

C. Therefore will I call upon Him, as long as I live. There is no other person to call upon who can be trusted, except Jesus. Satan has so many people deceived, into believing that Jesus never truly existed; and that Hell is not a real place. Therefore, they never call upon Jesus for help. And when the time of judgment shall come, they will see that Jesus truly did exist; and they will also see that Hell is truly a real place; where there is never any hope of escape, from the *hot fires* that fill the awful place.

D. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of Hell got hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

a. The sorrows of death. Once death comes upon a person, they have no hope of return; unless the Lord Jesus decides for one reason or another, to allow you to regain the power and strength needed to continue to live on the earth. This happens occasionally, but it certainly is not to be counted on. Because when the Lord decides to take you from the earth, He usually carries out the process completely.

b. Compassed me. Hebrew-aphaph (aw-faf): to surround, or to suddenly come upon.

c. And the pains of Hell got hold upon me. Once one is compassed by the sorrows of death, it is too late to call upon the Lord. I warn every person, who shall ever read this lesson, to make certain that they do not lay down their head on their pillow this very night, without making proper restitution for their soul before going to sleep. By this I mean, do not go to sleep before calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus; ask Him to forgive you for all your sins, and become your personal Savior; and allow Him to be Lord of every area of your life. Continually look unto Him for guidance and direction, in every decision which you must make in life; allowing Him to fill you with his Holy Spirit; and give you the power, the boldness, the wisdom, the understanding, the faith, and the courage which you need, to be a successful servant for Him.

And know that according to his Holy Word, that He has given you power and authority over Satan, and over his demon spirits. We read in Luke 10:18-19: “And He said unto them, *I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*” Once you go through this process by faith, the pains of Hell shall never again have any power over you.

d. I found trouble and sorrow. If a person refuses to do what I just previously mentioned in section c., they can count on trouble and sorrow,

when death compasses them. The trouble and sorrow I'm speaking of, is standing before the great judgment seat of Christ, and being told to depart into the everlasting torments of Hell; which will be fire which is never quenched, or will never come to an end; but burn eternally.

E. Then called upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. This was a very smart move on the psalmist part. He knew that his only hope, was to call upon the Lord. It is also our only hope. Without Jesus, we have no hope whatsoever. For as we are told in Heb. 9:22, without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Praise God for the blood of Jesus! And as we mentioned earlier, Rom. 10:13 tells us: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

F. Gracious is the Lord, and righteous: yea, our God is merciful.

a. Gracious-Hebrew-channuwn (khan-noon): to show favor towards, or to be merciful to.

b. Righteous-Hebrew-tsaddiyq (tsad-deek): just, lawful, or to be in a right moral standing; holy in every way.

c. Merciful-Hebrew-racham (raw-kham): loving or compassionate, or to show piety towards.

G. The Lord preserveth the simple.

a. Preserveth-Hebrew-shamar (shaw-mar): to guard, protect, or to attend to (for purposes of security).

b. Simple-Hebrew-pethiy (peth-ee): the foolish, or those who lack understanding or wisdom.

H. I was brought low, and He helped me. Many times we have to be humbled, before we ever realize the need for God's help. But when we humble ourselves before God, He will always come to our assistance.

6. People who live wisely, will spend life above in Heaven; rather than down below in Hell. Proverbs 15:24 tells us: "The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from Hell beneath."

Hebrew-sakal (saw-kal): to be intelligent, skillful, or to have understanding. We should always seek those things which are above; where Christ is present; and never set our hearts on things which are on the earth. We read in Col. 3:12-13: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

7. We read in Proverbs 27:20: "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." Hell is never full of those people who are

never satisfied with the things of the world, and who are not at all concerned about God's perfect will for their life.

We allow the material things of the world to become as gods unto us. But we all should do as Jesus told us to do in Matt. 6:33: "***But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***" If we will set our eyes upon Jesus, the things of the world will be taken care of. We will have all that we need, and more.

8. Isaiah tells us in Isa. 5:11-14: "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands. Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore Hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it."

A. He tells us that God's people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge. Hebrew-galah (gaw-law): to decline in a disgraceful sense, or to become exiles, who are usually stripped of decency, honor, pride, or worthiness; to become shameful in every way.

B. And their honorable men are famished. Hebrew-raab (raw-awb): to become hungry, in a natural way.

C. And their multitude dried up with thirst. In other words, they have turned from the Lord, and turned to their strong drinks and wine, until the Lord has had to turn his face from them; and they have perished due to hunger and thirst.

D. Therefore Hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure. Hell is a place who's gates are always open, to those who fail to regard the words of the Lord, and turn from sin. And Hell is continually enlarged, because of people who choose to follow the ways of sin; rather than repent and walk in righteousness.

E. And their glory and their multitude, and their pomp, shall descend into it. Hebrew-shaown (shaw-one): uproar, rioting, or destruction.

In other words, those who revolt or rejoice in such a manner, along with all their rioting and destructive actions, shall descend into Hell.

9. Isa. 14:1-11 tells us about the fall of Babylon; when Hell below was moved to meet Babylon at her coming: "For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. And the

people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Lord for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors. And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! The golden city ceased! The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? Art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.”

10. As we continue in Isaiah chapter 14, we read of the fall of Satan; when he thought he would become higher than God Himself: Verses 12-20 tell us: “How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.” Satan is the biggest lying idiot to ever exist; and Jesus Christ has stripped him of his power forevermore! The only power that Satan has, is the power that Christians give him, by refusing to believe and accept

by faith, total and complete power over him, through the name of Jesus. Satan has no more power over a Christian's life, than they allow him to have. When he foolishly got the idea in his head, that he could ever rise above the God that created all the heavens and the earth, he was kicked back down lower than the deepest pit of Hell forevermore. And when the blood of Jesus was shed on the cross of Calvary, that made the way for any person who will just believe and accept it by faith, to have total, complete power over Satan and all of his demonic forces, forevermore.

11. When the people of Jerusalem turned from the Lord, and became a scornful nation; and made a covenant with death, and with Hell, Isaiah also tells us what happened to them. We read in Isa. 28:14-18: "Wherefore hear the Word of the Lord, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with Hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it."

A. Ye scornful men. Hebrew-latsown (law-tsone): men of derision, or who causes confusion and turmoil.

B. We have made a covenant with death, and with Hell, are we at agreement. In other words, they turned to every evil and deadly style of life; any thing which pleased the ruler of Hell, they were in agreement with.

C. When the overflowing scourge shall pass through. Hebrew-shayit (shah-yit): as an oar, a whip, or a lash; something which causes action; in this case, usually disturbing action.

D. It shall not come unto us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves. These people thought that their sinful lies could actually be a refuge for them, from the judgment of God; actually thinking that anything other than truth and honesty could save them.

E. The Lord God said that He would lay in Zion a foundation; a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation. God was referring to his precious Son Jesus Christ, as the precious cornerstone, a sure foundation. We read in Matt. 21:42: "**Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the**

scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" And Acts 4:10-11 also tells us: "Be it known unto you all and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

And in Romans 9:33 we read: "As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." Eph. 2:19-22 tells us: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." And 1 Peter 2:6-8 tells us: "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

F. *He that believeth shall not make haste.* In other words, whosoever believeth upon this chief cornerstone, who is Jesus Christ, need not be anxious concerning any matter.

G. *Judgment also will I lay to the line.* God is telling us that his mighty judgment shall fall upon all those who choose to depend upon their lies as their refuge, and upon their falsehood.

H. And righteousness to the *plummet.* Hebrew-mishgal (mish-kawl): representing weight, or to the fullest degree.

I. *And the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.* We are being told, that their lies and their hiding place which they are hoping to secure them, will not stand. The judgment and the righteousness of God shall prevail!

J. *And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with Hell shall not stand; then ye shall be trodden down by it.* The only thing that will offer any security to any person, is their faith in God's Word, and in the blood of Jesus Christ. And when the day of judgment shall come, nothing shall be able to hide us from God's all-seeing eye.

12. Jesus told us in Matt. 5:22: ***“But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of Hell fire.”***

A. Whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause. Greek-orgizo (or-gid-zo): to provoke, or to enrage; to become exasperated, or wroth.

B. Shall be in danger of the judgment. Greek-krisis (kree-sis): derision, damnation, or condemnation (of almighty God).

C. Whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca. Greek-rhaka (rhak-ah): worthless one, or to call one no good; as to say that one is of no benefit to God whatsoever.

D. Shall be in danger of the council. Greek-sunedrion (soon-ed-ree-on): speaking of the Jewish Sanhedron; who was as the supreme court at the time of Jesus. Let us always be extremely careful how we speak of our brothers and sisters in Christ; for we must face the judgment of God for wrong things which are spoken concerning the children of God.

E. Whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of Hell fire. Greek-moros (mo-ros): dull or stupid; as to be one who is incapable of learning or becoming wise.

13. We read in Matt. 5:29-30: ***“And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Hell.”*** Jesus is telling us in these verses, that even if we had to spend life on this earth as a blind man; or if we had to lose a limb; it would be far better than having to spend eternity in Hell. But He is also speaking figuratively of anything that alters us from serving the Lord faithfully; or hinders us from walking uprightly before God. If there be any such thing in our life, we should depart from it; or rid ourselves of it.

14. We read in Mark 9:42-43: ***“And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. 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.”*** Greek-asbestos (as-bes-tos): to be extinguished. God is very concerned about how his children are

treated. He gets very upset when they are done wrongfully. One had better think twice, before they deliberately bring any harm to the children of God. The cost could be very great. God had rather see us attempting to be faithful unto Him, even when we may be partially disabled in some way, than to see us completely whole, and running the other direction.

15. Luke tells us in Luke 12:4-5: "***And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear Him, which after He hath killed hath power to cast into Hell: yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.***" There is no need whatsoever of being afraid of mankind; for the most that man can do, is to kill the body. But we must fear God Almighty; for He is the one who is able to cast us into Hell; where there will never be any chance of escape.

16. Once we leave this life on earth, it will be too late to make any changes in the decisions which we have made. Our eternal destiny will be based upon our acceptance or our rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, while we live on this earth.

There will be no way to receive help or assistance whatsoever, once our feet enter into the tormenting flames of Hell. There will be no turning back. There will be no way of warning any of our loved ones whom we leave behind. So while we have time, let us listen to the Words of God Almighty. Let us repent of all sin and unrighteousness; and be washed whiter than snow in the precious blood of Jesus. For God told us in 2 Cor. 6:2: "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" And He also told us in Rev. 20:13-15: "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. And death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Conclusion:

Hell is truly a lake of fire. And even though it was originally created as a place of punishment for the devil, and all those other angels who chose to rebel against the King of the heavens and the earth; God Almighty; it is also now a place of punishment for the unjust; for those who have chosen to live a life of evil, and have never been washed in Jesus' blood; for those who's names are not written in the Book of Life. Is your name in the Book of Life? If you aren't certain, it only takes seconds to have your name recorded. Just humble yourself before the mighty hand of God, ask Jesus Christ for

forgiveness for you sins, and allow Him by faith, to wash you in his precious blood. It could make the difference, in spending eternity in a beautiful, never ending, place of peace and joy; or spending eternity in a lake of fire; where there will be torture and pain forevermore. The choice is up to you! *Calvin Smith*

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