

WHY SHOULD A SINNER BE SAVED TODAY

THE AWFULNESS OF HELL

LUKE 16:19-31

I. Introduction

- A. God does not desire to cast people into Hell
 - 1. Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 23:37
- B. We are to warn the wicked
 - 1. Luke 3:7; Ezekiel 33:7-9
- C. Many people want to drop the doctrine of hell
 - 1. **Rationalism**
 - a) I can hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for, if so, the plain language of the text seems to show that the men who do not believe—and this would include my father, brother, and almost all my best friends—will be everlastingly punished. And this is a damnable doctrine.” (The Christian Agnostic. London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1965, p. 164)
 - 2. **Ridicule**
 - a) Robert Ingersoll said: “The idea of hell was born of revenge and brutality on the one side, and cowardice on the other... I have no respect for any man who preaches it... I dislike this doctrine, I hate it, I despise it, I defy this doctrine!”
 - 3. **Religion**

Non-Christian cults deny hell

 - a) The Christian Science church defines hell as error of mortal mind.
 - b) The Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that the wicked will simply be annihilated.
 - c) The Mormons believe in hell, but not as an endless existence. They teach that life after death involves three levels: celestial, terrestrial, and telestial. The celestial level includes Mormons in an intermediate state, who will eventually become gods. The terrestrial level includes Christians and other persons who rejected the Mormon message. The telestial level is reserved for those currently in hell who await a final resurrection. Mormons teach that these will ultimately be saved and not suffer punishment forever.
 - d) The Seventh-Day Adventists claim that God will someday blot out all sin and sinners and establish a clean universe again.

II. What Hell is NOT

- A. Hell is Not...Purgatory
- B. Hell is Not...Annihilation of the soul
 - 1. Matthew 10:28
 - a) 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9Destruction comes from the same word for Destroy, yet it is an ‘everlasting’ destruction, therefore cannot be annihilation.
- C. Hell is Not...Temporary
 - 1. Some believe that at the end of the world, God will clear out hell
- D. Sadly...Hell is Not...Empty
 - 1. Luke 13:23-24; Matthew 7:13-14; Matthew 26:24

III. Hell is Awful Because of the Crowd that is going there

- A. The Rebellious Crowd
 - 1. Matthew 7:13-14; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 21:27; John 3:3; Galatians 5:19-21; Psalm 9:17
- B. The Religious Crowd
 - 1. Luke 13:24-28; Matthew 25:11-12; Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 12:43-45
 - 2. Degrees of Punishment
 - a) The hottest hell will be for the people who knew how to be saved but rejected the gospel.
 - b) Deuteronomy 32:22; Matthew 10:15; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12; Matthew 11:20-24; Luke 12:47-48; 2 Peter 2:21

IV. Hell is Awful because of the Cries that will be heard

- A. The rich man Begged for Mercy – but too late
- B. The rich man Begged for Water – but received none
- C. Matthew 13:42; Matthew 24:51; Matthew 25:30
- D. Description of hell
 - 1. Psalms 88:4-10; Luke 16:24; Matt 13:42; Mark 9:43-48; Isaiah 33:11

2. Isaiah 33:14; Matthew 25:46; Matthew 3:12; Matthew 13:41-42; Revelation 14:10-11; Revelation 20:11-15; Jude 1:23

V. Hell is Awful because of its Continuation

- A. Revelation 19:20
 1. Revelation 20:10 – note the beast and the false prophet have been there for 1000 years
- B. Duration
 1. Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10; Isaiah 66:22-24
 - a) The lost will be forgotten by the saved!
 - (1) Ecclesiastes 9:5; Isaiah 26:14

VI. Hell must be Awful because of the payment of the Cross

- A. Colossians 1:20; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Galatians 6:14; Isaiah 53:1-12
- B. Deliverance – The Only Way
 1. Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 5:20; John 14:1-6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:1-6

VII. Conclusion

- A. To the Sinner person
 1. Run to Jesus
- B. To the Saved person
 1. Regret
 2. Resolution