

The Sermon I Hate To Preach

No. 154

Introduction.

- I. There are many sermons that I love to preach. I love to talk about the great **God**, His marvelous love and His awesome power. I love to talk about **Jesus**, His perfect life, and the great sacrifices He made for us. I love to talk about the glorious work of the **Holy Spirit**. I love to talk about the joys of the **Christian life** and the **joys of heaven**.
- II. There is, however, one sermon I hate to preach. I hate to preach on hell. But as a gospel preacher, in order to preach the whole counsel of God, I must preach about hell. If I did not I would be unfaithful as a minister of the word and would manifest hatred for you.
- III. Suppose an **apartment house**, with 1000 residents, has a gas leak and I learn about it. As I think of what will happen I say "I must warn them and save their lives." But someone says to me, "I wouldn't do that; it might scare the tenants. Some of them would worry. Others would faint. Be nice to them. Don't disturb them." The apartment house blows up and all the tenants are killed. Have I done the right thing? Have I been prompted by love? No. If I loved them, I would have warned them.
 - A. In the same way, because I love you I must warn you of the hell to come. In this sermon I feel compelled to tell you about "The Seven Horrors of Hell." I preach this sermon with the hope that it will lead you to God and will stir you to become concerned for the millions of lost souls who are headed for hell.
 - B. **Over in England a man preached on the horrors of hell.** He gave a vivid description of the agonies of hell. He told how Christ that we might escape hell. He told how Christ can save. An atheist who heard him said, "If I believed that, I would crawl on my hands and knees all over England to tell men how to be saved from hell."
 - C. I believe if we ever realize, even to a small degree, how bad hell is that we will devote ourselves to Christ. We will crawl on how hands and knees, if necessary, to win others to Christ.
- I. **Hell Is Real** - The first horror of hell is that it is real.
 - A. Recent surveys show that more and more people are denying the reality of hell.
 1. Some say hell is only a **state of mind**. Others contend that hell is **the grave**. Others contend that hell **could not be real** because a God of love would never send a person to such a horrible place.
 2. In contrast to these popular views about hell, the Bible emphatically teaches that hell is a real place. It is just as real as you and I. It is just as real as our world. It is just as real as heaven.
 - B. There are numerous scriptures that affirm the reality of hell. Let's briefly consider some of them.
 1. **John the Baptist** spoke of hell.
Matt. 3:11, 12 **¹¹I indeed baptize you in water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and *in* fire: ¹²whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing-floor; and he will gather his wheat into the garner, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire.** ASV

2. **Jesus** affirmed that hell is real.

Matt. 5:21, 22 21 Ye have heard that it was said to them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 but I say unto you, that every one who is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire

Matt. 5:29, 30 29 And if thy right eye causeth thee to stumble, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not thy whole body be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand causeth thee to stumble, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not thy whole body go into hell

Matt. 10:28 And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell

Mark 9 42 And whosoever shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it were better for him if a great millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. 43 And if thy hand cause thee to stumble, cut it off: it is good for thee to enter into life maimed, rather than having thy two hands to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire. 44 *where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.* 45 And if thy foot cause thee to stumble, cut it off: it is good for thee to enter into life halt, rather than having thy two feet to be cast into hell. 46 *where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.* 47 And if thine eye cause thee to stumble, cast it out: it is good for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell; 48 *where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.* ASV

Matt. 13 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that cause stumbling, and them that do iniquity, 42 and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He that hath ears, let him hear. ASV

3. **Jesus** also said. (Mat. 25:30; Jn. 3:36; 15:6).

JOH 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

4 **Paul** affirmed the reality of hell. (2 Thess. 1:8, 9).

5 The **Hebrew writer** affirmed the reality of hell. (Heb. 2:3; 10:26, 27).

6 The **apostle John** affirmed the reality of hell. (Rev. 20:15; 21:8).

7 These scriptures set forth that hell is a real place and that it is a place of torment. We cannot deny the reality of hell without denying the truthfulness of the Bible. We cannot deny hell without denying the

justice of God. We cannot deny the reality of hell without invalidating the atonement of Jesus Christ.

8 **Once there was a certain preacher who did not believe there was a hell** and taught everyone will be saved. Then his wife died and left him with a little girl. She was the idol of his heart. When she was almost grown, a man enticed her into sin, ruined her and broke his heart. Then the preacher said, "If God Almighty doesn't have a hell for fiends like the one who ruined my child and wrecked my life He ought to have one." The just God does have a hell for such fiends. His justice also demands that all sinners be punished for the sins they have committed unless they repent and accept the pardon offered by Christ.

II. **A Place Of Darkness** - The second horror of hell is that hell is a place of darkness. (Matt. 25:30).

A. Jesus described hell here as a **place of outer darkness**. Do you know what is one of the greatest punishments that could be afflicted on any man? The answer is darkness. You can take the strongest man and place him in total darkness and in a matter of days or weeks he will become mad and begin to weep and gnash his teeth together.

B. **Think of spending an eternity in absolute darkness!** It is no wonder Jesus said the wicked shall weep and gnash their teeth together.

III. **A Place Of Fire** - The third horror of hell is that it is place of fire. (Matt. 25:41).

A. **Stick your finger in a flame**. How does it feel? You can't keep it there one second without pain. No worse pain can come to you. If one second in a fire is so painful, think of what it would be like spend an eternity roasting in the flames of hell. The bodies of the wicked will burn and suffer unbearable pain yet their bodies will never be consumed.

B. The question is sometimes asked, "**How could here be literal fire and literal darkness at the same time in hell?**" Man by his own chemical ingenuity has been able to make fire that does not glow. Surely the Almighty God can do so if He so desires.

C. It is possible that both fire and darkness **may be figurative terms** to depict to finite minds how terrible hell will be. As mortals we are unable to understand how bad hell will be. God may be saying that it like a place of complete darkness and like a place of fire. Actually hell is worse. No mortal can comprehend just how bad hell will be.

IV. **A Place Of Vile Companionships** - The fourth horror of hell is that it is a place of vile companionships.

A. The worse, the meanest, the cruelest, the filthiest people will be there.

B. **Let me tell you something else** that will add to the horrors of hell for some people.

1. They live clean lives, they are cultured and refined, they are good citizens, they have nice families and friends. But they reject Christ.

2. One day they will be cast into hell, to live forever with liars, adulterers, murderers, drunkards, rapists, dope addicts, and the vilest creatures. This will be an awful thing for them. They cannot die and leave these people. They cannot move away. There is no hope of pardon. They will be with them forever.

V. **Memory And Regret** - The fifth horror of hell is that it is place of memory and regret.

- A. Those in hell will remember how they sold out their precious souls for the pleasures of the world. They will remember every sermon they ever heard, every invitation song, every prayer on their behalf. They will remember the times when they were almost persuaded.
- B. **All of these things will add to the agony of hell.** The doomed will say a thousand times every day, “Oh, if I only accepted Jesus. If I had only accepted Jesus!”

VI. **A Place of Separation** - The sixth horror of hell is that it is a place of separation.

- A. **Those in hell will be cut off from God forever.** They will not enjoy the eternal presence of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. They will never see the holy angels. They will never see the streets of gold. They will never know what it is like to have a perfect body and what it is like to have perfect peace and perfect happiness. They will spend eternity apart from God and everything good.
- B. They will also be **separated from their loved ones** who have not accepted Christ. They will long to see their faithful wife or husband or child or mother or father, but they will never lay eyes on them again. The Bible teaches that “a great gulf” has been fixed between them and heaven and no one can pass over.

VII. **An Eternal Place** - The seventh horror of hell is that hell is an eternal place. (Matt. 25:41, 46; Rev. 20:10).

- A. According to “**Thayer’s Greek Lexicon**” the Greek word “anionios” translated “eternal” means “without end, never to cease, everlasting.” It is impossible for us to comprehend eternity. To us a 100 years seems like a long time, but in eternity it will be like a drop of water in the sea.
- B. After one has been in hell a thousand years, then a million years, then a billion years, then a trillion years, he will be no closer to the end than when he started. Hell is eternal. It is forever an ever.

Conclusion.

- I. Hell isn’t a very pretty place, is it? It makes me shudder every time I think of it.
- II. **How can we escape hell?** There is just one way we can escape hell and that is by accepting Jesus Christ who went to the cross and died for our sins.
 - A. On the cross Jesus shed His blood for everyone who will give their lives to Him. He stands today with open arms, slaying, “Come unto Me and I will save you forever.”
 - B. Don’t reject His invitation. Don’t spurn His love. Don’t trample Him under foot. Don’t continue on the road to destruction.
 - C. He has done all that is necessary to save you, and He wants to save you. Come to Christ today. Then your destiny will not be the everlasting home of the doomed, but God’s own heaven. Come as we sing.