



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

WHAT IN HELL IS GOING ON: The Rejection of Hell (PT 2 OF 3)

Luke 19:19-31 19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' 25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' 27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Matthew 25: 41-46 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' 45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Hell seems to be a vanishing doctrine in our generation that people discount or disbelieve. Yet, hell as a final state for the unrighteous is clearly a biblical reality and one taught by Jesus himself.

I. Reasons of Rejection

1. Reconciling hell with the love of God
2. Gross distortions about hell's nature
3. The OT pictures negative consequences after death, while the NT is positive and more "human".
4. Growing acceptance of alternative theories.

II. Alternate Avenues

1. **Universalism:** Christ died for all people, without exception, and thus all will be saved (Eph. 1:10, Col. 1:20, Rom 5:18, Phil. 2:10-11)
2. **Annihilationism / Conditional Immortality:** Hell is not eternal torment, but elimination, destruction, annihilation, extinction. The soul ceases to exist.
 - The root word "apollumi" most often translated for "perish", "ruin" or "destroy" in such passages as Mt 9:17, Luke 15:4, and John 6:12, does not necessarily mean "to pass out of existence or annihilate".
 - In Mt 25:46, The word "eternal" used to describe the eternal existence of the saved is the same word used to describe the eternal existence of the lost, indicating the same duration for both.

Matthew 25:46 "*Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*"

III. Seriousness of Sin:

Hell exists because unbelievers are eternally guilty and refuse to glorify God
Revelation 15:3 "... *Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations. 4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For all the nations will come and worship before Thee, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed.*"
Romans 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
Luke 16:14 *Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things, and they were scoffing at Him.*

Revelation 16:1 "... *Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth.*"
5 *Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; 6 for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."*
7 *And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."*
9 *They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.*

No human being's suffering can ever be a payment for sin against a Glorious God nor can any man fully fathom the dire consequence of disobedience and sin.

Hell is a natural consequence of the seriousness of sin and is better understood in light of the nature and greatness of the One against whom we sin.

CONCLUSION: Our Lord plainly taught that Hell is a reality and will be the eternal home and punishment of the wicked who reject Him as Lord. Thus, ultimately WE MUST CHOOSE where we will be in eternity for to ignore this choice IS to choose hell. As we see what in hell is going on, we must heed the warning of the rich man to avoid hell at all cost by accepting the love and gift of eternal life that God offers you through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:27 *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

Matthew 7:13 *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*



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