

Series on Death and the Afterlife – sermon 8 - 13/02/11(am)

What Hell is Like

Luke 16:19-31

Theme: Hell is the place of God's just punishment of sinners.

Hell is an actual place.

Hell is not the Kingdom of Satan.

Hell is where God is in all His wrath.

Hell before Christ returns is where the souls of unbelievers go.

Hell after Christ returns is where unbelievers go body and soul.

What Hell is Like – Luke 16:19-31

1. Hell is a Place of Separation (Luke 16:22-23a).

The negative side of punishment.

The deprivation of every manifestation of God's love and goodness.

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It is a place of outer darkness, *cf.*

Matthew 8:11-12.

In this life even unbelievers experience
common grace.

There is no common grace in Hell!

2. Hell is a Place of Torment

(Luke 16:23b-24, 27).

The positive side of punishment.

Jesus uses ghastly language to describe this:

everlasting punishment, *cf.* Matthew
25:46;

the weeping and *the* gnashing of
teeth, *cf.* Matthew 8:11-12;

unquenchable fire and
gnawing/condemning conscience, *cf.*
Mark 9:47-48;

torment, agony, *cf.* Luke 16:23-24;

Jude speaks of eternal fire, *cf.* Jude 7;

Paul speaks of flaming fire, eternal destruction, *cf.* 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

When *fire* is used to describe Hell it is a symbol for God's wrath, *cf.* Jeremiah 4:4; Nahum 1:6; Hebrews 12:29.

Scripture teaches that there are **degrees of punishment** in Hell, *cf.* Matthew 10:14-15; 11:20-24; Acts 17:31.

The longer sinners live the more wrath they accumulate. All men partake equally of original sin, but men do not partake equally of actual sins.

[Jonathan Edwards]

Is God showing you the danger you are in?

3. Hell is a Place of Hopelessness (Luke 16:26).

No possibility of escape or release.

Abandon all hope ye who enter here.

[Dante]

Those refusing to come to Jesus and be saved in this life will be commanded by Him on the last Day to depart from Him and be dammed!

[Matthew Henry]

4. A Place of Permanent Residence.

Implied strongly throughout Luke
16:19-31.

Hell is eternal in duration, *cf.* Matthew
25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Revelation
14:10.

Conclusion

Zaleucus took 50% of the punishment
due his son.

Jesus took 100% of the punishment you
deserve!

In six hours of time on the cross Jesus
took eternal punishment in His body.

*Christian, fall down and worship the
One Who rescued you from Hell!*

*Unbeliever, fall down and cry for mercy,
forgiveness and salvation through faith
in Christ, cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:9.*

*The saddest road to Hell is that which
runs under the pulpit, past the Bible,
and through the midst of warnings and
invitations. [J C Ryle]*