

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Hell

If One Could Hear from Hell Or Beyond the Grave

Bill Brinkworth

"And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores ... 22 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; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 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 ... 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:20-31

In Luke 16, Jesus tells of two men that died. One found himself in Hell. The other found himself in a comforting, rewarding place where Abraham and other believers temporarily dwelt.

A rich man discovered that Hell was real, and the torment was unbearable. Most likely, he had little concern for where he would go after his death, but now it was taken seriously. He knew then there was no hope for him, and that he would be facing an eternity of torment, pain, and separation from God.

However, he wanted his five, still-living brothers warned of the dangers of Hell-fire. He pleaded for an opportunity to keep his family from also ending up in that terrifying place, but he was denied that request.

All in Hell surely regret the wasted opportunities they had to keep from spending an eternity there. It is too late for them. However, they most likely want their remaining family to avoid Hell's torment. I am sure they all wish their loved ones had a chance to heed the Word of God and be saved, so they would never experience what they are.

Nowhere in God's Word is there an account of the damned conversing with the living (although deceiving demons may have deceived some). If Hell-imprisoned prisoners or one from the dead could communicate with the living, what would be their plea?

It may be a thirst-caused raspy voice, exhausted from endless terror and torment that would reach out to a loved one. The plead would be personal; I am sure. "Bruce, please listen to me. Jesus

is the only way out of this dark, lonely, abyss of hopelessness. Stop mocking Hell; it is real! Run to that Baptist church on the corner. Beg the preacher to tell you what the Bible says you must do to avoid this torment. What he warned us of is true! Go now! Pleasssse, go now. Don't wait!"

Perhaps a barely audible whisper from Hell would plead, "It's me, your father. I failed to be saved from this terrifying torment. Don't waste your time on Earth, as I have. Trusting Jesus as payment for all your sins is the only way to miss Hell. Go to our Christian neighbor next door and beg him to show you what the Bible says one must do to avoid the place. Don't wait! Go now, while you have the chance!"

A pained, frightened voice from the lonely bowels of the Earth would undoubtedly beg a grandson to flee the child's sin and to read, believe, and obey all that is within the pages of God's Word. "Heed it, Bobby! It's all true! Read it and do as God commands in the Bible. It's too late for me, but not for you! Please, Bobby. I beg you — go!"

Although logic may tell us that hearing a cautioning cry from Hell or beyond the grave would change our minds and encourage us to live as the Lord desires, God knows better. He knew that, as people of the early church ignored what prophets, believers, and God's Word warned people, they would most likely continue to take God's promises and warnings lightly. Pleadings from the dead will not permanently change hearts.

The only action that will rescue anyone from that tormenting destination is to believe God's saving words by faith! Faith is what saved the poor beggar whom Christ used as an example. He had no sign or heard no warning from a Hell-imprisoned soul. He just believed what he had heard.

The beggar had the same conviction that millions of sinners since Jesus' time have had. That trusting, believing, and obeying faith is still sufficient to save a person today. Visual or audible proof will not usually soften or change the heart of an unrighteous person. Only believing God's warning and promises will allow a person to enjoy an eternity with Jesus!

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

"Smoking or non-smoking? The choice of the place you spend eternity is up to you today."

Hell, As Described in II Thessalonians 1

Bill Brinkworth

From time to time, one will be heard saying, "I cannot believe a loving God would send anyone to a burning Hell!" In many places throughout the Word of God, the horrible place of torment is described. II Thessalonians 1 reinstates that some will go there no matter what man thinks (II Thes. 1:8-9).

These scriptures tell us six horrifying facts about Hell. Hell is:

- A place of “flaming fire” (II Thes. 1:8). With many trying to sanitize and be polite in describing it, Hell is a place that no one should ever want to go. It is a place with pain and tormenting flames.
- A punishment that is God’s “vengeance” (II Thes. 1:8). There are many that mock and laugh at the things of God — now. Some even curse the Creator’s name. No matter how others treat God, there is a payday someday for their behavior:
“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Galatians 6:7
- A place for “... them that know not God ...” (II Thes. 1:8). Many also say, “I can’t believe God would send those that never heard about Him to Hell.” Well, if they believe it or not, it is clearly stated here. Perhaps many of the unknowing would not be going there if more saved would tell the lost how to avoid Hell. Gulp! That puts the burden on Christians that had all kinds of excuses for not telling others how to get to Heaven.
- A place for them “... that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” There are a lot of people who claim they know who Christ is. I am sure they do. Satan personally knows Him, but “knowing” is not trusting Christ alone as Saviour. Many know about Him, but obey what their religion dictates, rather than what the Scripture says about going to Heaven. It is obeying the Gospel that gets us to Heaven, not obeying what a religious book or church says if it does not line up with the Word of God.
- A punishment of “... everlasting destruction. ...” (II Thes. 1:9). Ultimately, those in Hell are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14), and it is a place of eternal torment.
- A place “... from the presence of the Lord ...” (II Thes. 1:9). What a horrible place to be without the possibility to ever be reconciled with God — forever alone.

After reading some of the horrific descriptions of the place where so many will spend their eternity, many heads wag in agreement. However, if they believed there is a Hell, I wonder why so many do not make any attempt to pluck any out of going to its flames?

Why are there so many that have never warned any of their neighbors, family members, or acquaintances of the consequences of being an unforgiven sinner? Jesus is the only way out of a horrible eternity in Hell. Are you sure you are trusting in Christ as Saviour from that place? Have you warned anyone lately of its dangers?

“God sends no one to Hell. Those go there because of their rejection and rebellion to not accept what He commanded them to do. They are there because of their own, unforgiven sins!”

Where Hell Is

Author Unknown

A young man was saved during an evangelistic meeting in his mining village. Desirous to do something for God, he bought some Gospel tracts to hand out.

He was distributing those portions of scriptures one day when he met some of his companions. They teased and joked at the new convert for his effort.

“Can you tell me where Hell is?” mocked one of his friends.

After a moment's thought, he replied, "Yes, it's at the end of a Christless life."

Heaven's Roll Call

D. L. Moody

A wounded soldier lay dying on his cot. Suddenly, the room's death-like stillness was broken by the cry, "Here! Here!" which burst from the lips of the dying man.

Friends rushed to the spot and asked what he wanted. "Hark," he said, "they are calling the roll of Heaven, and I am answering to my name." In a few moments, once more he whispered, "Here!" and passed into the presence of the King.

"If your name was called up yonder, would you be there?"