

I was saved about twenty minutes after 8 p.m., April 22, 1959. Before I was saved, I was just a poor lost sinner on my way to that terrible place called "hell." I did not know much about God or hell as I did not visit a church house until I was thirty-six years old. God, Jesus Christ, and hell were my most common curse words, but today I am so thankful to have been delivered from that kind of talk through Jesus Christ and His wonderful salvation!

Friend, have you ever given thought to that place called "hell"? The Bible lets us know hell was created for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Hell is also that terrible place where all sinners will go when they leave this life unprepared to meet God.

Luke 16:24-25 tells of a rich man who died lost: "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. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." Today, that same man is still crying out for relief from the flames of hell, but it is too late for him. Anyone who is living in sin needs to stop and realize that God has all power and authority over us. We read in Luke 12:4-5: "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

Hell is not a retirement home, but rather it is a place of punishment for those who reject God's Son, Jesus Christ, as lord and master of their lives and continue to live in sin.

Jesus, speaking in Matthew 23:27-28 and 33, had this to say about the religious hypocrites: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.... Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

The heat and flames of hell are as real as the sun and are controlled by Almighty God and His power. To reject Jesus Christ and His precious blood as payment for our sins is a very serious thing, as 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 tells us: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

Hell was created by God for one purpose, and that purpose is to punish every sinful one who continues to sin and reject Jesus Christ and the salvation He brought by dying on the cruel Cross of Calvary for the sins of all mankind. Second Peter 2:9 reads, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." God does not want anyone to go to that terrible place called "hell," for 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Sinner friend, won't you consider what you have just read? If you will repent and ask Jesus to forgive you of all your sins and also forsake them, then you will become born again. You will be a child of God, and you will be able to make Heaven your eternal home. Romans 10:9-10 and 13 states: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. . . . For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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