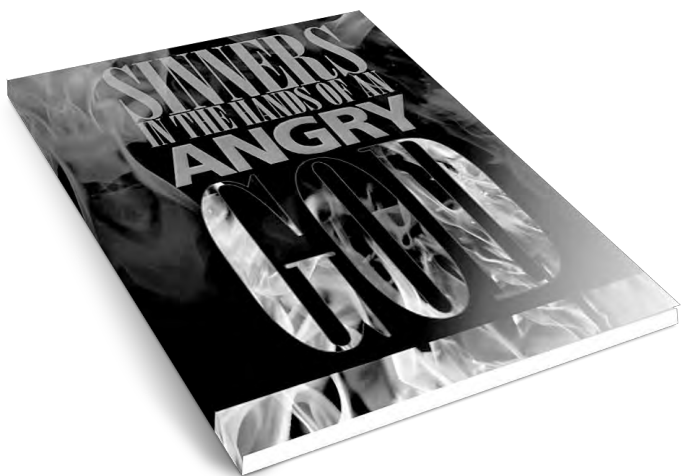


SINNERS
IN THE HANDS OF AN
ANGRY

GOD

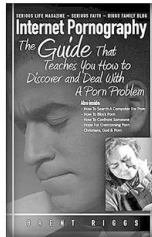
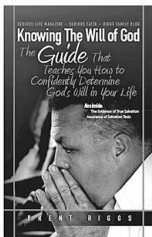
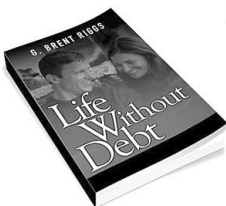
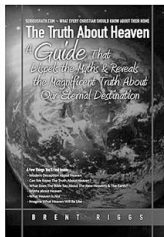
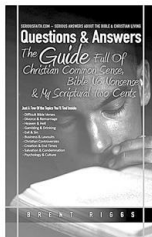
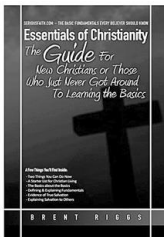
G. BRENT RIGGS



Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

**A Modern Rendition
by Brent Riggs**

A few of Brent's other books... to see a full list visit:
<http://www.brentriggs.com/stuff>



Introduction

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

Messages About Hell By Brent Riggs:

Hell Gets a Bad Rap

Hell – The Bible Speaks

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Hell – An Important Part of the Gospel

Distasteful Doctrines: Hell

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

A Modern Rendition by Brent Riggs

Original Author

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)
Enfield, Connecticut • July 8, 1741

Modern English Author

Brent Riggs • www.seriousfaith.com

One of the greatest sermons of all time is the classic by Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” It fueled the Great Awakening Christian revival in America in the 1700's.

Sadly, and tragically, uncompromising preaching about HELL is not only unpopular today, many people (including most Christians) actually believe teaching about Hell is detrimental to the Christian message. They say “you shouldn’t try to scare

people into Hell. “Who says? Certainly not God, Jesus, or the Apostles. The Bible has far more to say about Hell than Heaven.

I often say, “If you were standing on a train track about to get run over by a train, should I tell you to get off the tracks because life is so much better over there in the field or because I really love you? Or should I jump up and down, holler and wave my arms letting you know that you are about to get run over and die?” I can think of



hardly a better reason to accept Christ and repent of your sins than to avoid impending judgment and doom. Yes, of course, accepting the free gift of eternal life out of gratitude to God is a valid motivation but why have we reached a point where we call the threat of Hell “fire insurance” in order to insult and diminish that reason? Why do many Christians – including Preachers – think accepting Christ to avoid Hell is insincere? Preaching Hell is not good marketing, that’s for sure; but Jesus and Paul sure didn’t have a problem proclaiming it.

Every person who dies in their sin and rejects God’s offer of forgiveness is condemned to eternity in Hell. That’s fact whether you believe it or not, whether you like it or not, whether you agree with God’s plan or not. To accept Christ to

avoid Hell is not only valid, it is a reason that God Himself gives us over and over in the Bible.

I've published many books and rewritten many older works for easy reading (here's a few: Puritan Prayers, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights). I realized that Edwards powerful sermon was something sorely needed by the world of the 21st century. Make no mistake – the thoughts and the outline of this message are originally Jonathan Edwards' (from God first, of course). As a preacher, I would not be worthy to do his laundry. I just felt, given our different vocabulary and reading skills of today, it was time to write a version of his sermon for the 21st-century Christian.

This is NOT a word-for-word translation, but a paraphrase of Jonathan Edwards' message in my own words and style. I have followed the outline and thought pattern of his message, and added my own thoughts where I believe them to be applicable to our times (my additions are identified by italics type).

This message by Jonathan Edwards is not only a classic, but it was also the spark that lit a revival all across America. Why not a revival today? America has been soft-pedaled a feel-good, "Jesus will improve your life," positive-self-esteem Word of God for many decades. The result is a weak Church, a worldly people, and a far-too-casual attitude about sin... accompanied by a lack of fear about the reality of Hell for those who do not obey God.

Send this to your lost friends. Send it to those who profess Christ but don't actually live like Christians. Send it to the leaders of your church and encourage them to make it available to everyone they know.

A handwritten signature in a cursive, grey font that reads "Brent". The signature is slightly shadowed, giving it a 3D effect.

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Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

*Deuteronomy 32:35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; **Their foot shall slip in due time**; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.* (NKJV; emphasis mine)

In this verse, God promises to punish the wicked, unresponsive, and unbelieving Israelites. In the Old Testament times, the Israelites were God's people on earth; they were His chosen children and lived under God's protection and grace.

But despite all of God's wonderful blessings, they denied God and pretty much kicked Him out of their nation and society (*sound familiar in our world today?*). Even though God did everything He could to be patient and bring the Israelites back in line, they still persisted in their wickedness and sin (*sound anything like the world today?*).

In our opening verse, you see the phrase “their foot shall slip in due time.” There are four things this phrase seems to imply about the punishment and destruction that was about to come on the Israelites for their continued disobedience. (*As you read these, consider whether or not God would punish our wickedness today in the same manner... after all, He has never failed to punish an evil nation... is America [or other countries] somehow exempt from God's justice?*)

1. If you are standing on slippery surface, are you not predisposed to slipping? If you put yourself into wicked situations, are you not prone to sinning? If you continue to do wrong, are you not destined to be punished? The phrase “their foot shall slip in due time” seems to imply that because the Israelites had chosen to ignore God, was it not only a matter of time before God would respond appropriately?
2. The phrase also implies that God's judgment would be sudden and unexpected. Just like walking on an icy sidewalk, you never know when you are going to slip and fall. It could happen at any time, and it will happen very quickly when it does. You have no idea when it will occur; then ‘whoosh!’ - down you go! Psalm 73:18-19 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

(NKJV)

3. Another implication is that people fall because of themselves, not because someone pushes them down. When a person goes down on a slippery sidewalk, they only need their own body weight. No outside push is necessary.
4. We also find that the fall comes at the time that GOD has determined. “In due time” means “at the appointed time.” Who is capable of determining that time? God, of course. It’s not that God will push them down; no, it will be that God will simply no longer hold them up. Sinners fall by their own weight, God does not cause it. The only reasons it doesn’t happen sooner are God’s mercy and patience.

So, here is the point I want you to understand about this: **there is nothing that keeps the wicked and sinful person from dying and going straight to Hell this very moment BUT the mere pleasure of God.**

What does “mere pleasure” mean? It means His sovereign pleasure. God can do whatever He wants and is under NO obligation to seek our approval. He is hindered by no one, and no thing.

The fact that the preservation of the wicked from Hell for one single moment, or the delaying of the sinner’s death and

consignment to Hell this very second, is due solely to the pleasure of God can be seen as true when we consider the following:

1. There is certainly no lack of power or ability in God to cast sinful men into Hell at any moment that He chooses. Obviously He could do this, so the fact that He does not, displays His pleasure in delaying. If God chose to cast us in to Hell, we would be powerless to stop it. God can do it, and do it easily if He so chooses. Sometimes an earthly authority has trouble getting an outlaw under control who has some means of fighting back, or perhaps has recruited a group of criminals to fight with him. But this is not true for God. There is no place to hide from God, or place to hole up and fight Him off. Even if every person on earth decided to join together to go against God, they won't last a single second longer than if it was only one person. Anyone attempting to go against God will be like a blade of grass in a tornado, or like dry hay in a firestorm. It would be easier for God to defeat all the armies of the world than it would be for you or me to crush a worm on sidewalk by stomping on it.

How easy would it be for you to burn a single piece of thread in two that held something up in the air? Just put a lighter to it for one second and the thing "hanging by a thread" would fall. So it would be infinitely easier for God

to “let go” of the thread that keeps us from falling into Hell.

Who are we to argue this truth to the God before whom the entire earth trembles, and the mountains are crumbled to the ground?

2. Second, the wicked DESERVE to be cast into Hell; there is nothing “unfair” about it. If God chose to destroy all sinners this very moment, it would be perfectly just and right. In fact, justice CALLS for our punishment! Justice says “let wickedness be punished!” and of course this is right. The sword of justice could cut the strand that holds us from plunging into Hell at any moment; and it is only the will of God that delays this from occurring.
3. The sinner is already condemned to Hell, just like a criminal who is sentenced to jail. The sinner not only deserves Hell, but the sentence and the pronouncement of condemnation has already been proclaimed. Why? Because it is the proper consequence of sin as it separates us from the eternal righteousness of God. Hell is already a certainty, a just certainty, and an inevitable certainty for those who die without Christ.

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in

the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NKJV) Every person who dies without believing in and responding to Jesus Christ belongs in Hell. That is tough language in today's world of 'positive' religion and 'let's don't mention Hell' seeker-friendly churches. But it is the truth; the real, awful truth. For example, consider this quote from one of today's most popular "Christian" leaders, Robert Schuller:

"I don't think anything has been done in the Name of Christ and under the banner of Christianity that has proven more destructive to human personality and, hence, counterproductive to the evangelism enterprise than the often crude, uncouth, and un-Christian strategy of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition." (Christianity Today, October 5, 1984)

John 8:23-24 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (NKJV)

The proper place of unrepentant sinners is Hell; "you are from beneath." There in Hell, the sinner is trapped because it is the proper place where God's justice must be served... that is the result of His unchangeable law that proclaims clearly what the penalty of sin is. (Rom 3.23)

4. The unbelieving sinner is the object of the very same anger and violence that is found in the torments of Hell. The only reason the sinner does not go to Hell today, is not because God, who is in control of all, does not have, right now at this very moment, the very same Hellish anger towards their sin. Don't believe that God is not angered over sin just because He is silent for a short time, or because no Hellish consequences have been delivered. No, don't mistake God's patience for apathy because even now many miserable and eternally lost people are already experiencing the torments of Hell. Billions of unrepentant sinners can already attest to the fierceness of God's holy anger. Because we have the revealed Truth at our fingertips, no doubt that God is even a great deal more angered with the multitudes on earth today who ignore or deny Him. There is no question that even a great many who read this sentence at this moment are in danger of God's anger to an even greater degree than those who already suffer in Hell. Why? Because many in Hell already did not have the vast resources of the Bible and the Gospel message that we enjoy today. We have no excuse. Do not be mistaken... it is not because God is ignoring wickedness today, or that He doesn't notice it, that keeps every sinner from being cut loose into Hell at this moment. God is not like us, so we must not harbor any foolishness that He is forgetful or thinks lightly of our sin. The wrath of God burns with full fury in preparation for the careless,

rebellious, or ignorant sinner. Hell is prepared to receive those who deserve to be there. The sentence has been pronounced, the torments are waiting. Hell rages and glows hot in anticipation.

Even now, as the unbelieving sinner dangles over those flames, the Sword of Wrath has been sharpened and the Swordsman is ready to sever the thread that keeps sinners from the plunge. Hell is open wide to receive its eternal inhabitants.

5. Satan stands ready at this moment to seize for himself as many souls as he can. He cherishes each lingering moment that God permits him to claim more for his possession and dominion. The devils watch and wait, ever vigilant to see who will make the fall next. They stand watching like hungry lions awaiting their prey, expecting to have it any second... but for some reason are held back, if only for a moment. At any moment, if God decided to remove His restraining hand from the ravenous devils, they would pounce on the poor souls. Hell stands ready, and only God keeps it from swallowing up those who could slip in at this very second.
6. The hearts of sinful men contain the principles of wickedness that would already have them fuel the fires of Hell if it were not for God's merciful restraint. The very nature of the flesh is the foundation of the torments of

Hell. There is that rotten part of man's heart, which man can use to great destruction, that are the seeds of Hell's fire. These wicked tendencies are active and powerful in the race of men, exceedingly violent; and again, only God's restraint keeps that wickedness from flaring up into a great consuming fire to receive the same torments as those souls who are already damned.

In other words, every heart in every man has the potential and capability for great wickedness; and the wickedness would quickly send each of us to Hell if it were not for God's merciful decision to keep this from happening this very moment.

The souls of wicked men are like the stormy sea (Isa 57.20). For a little while, God restrains their sinfulness in the same way that He can speak to the stormy waters saying, "The raging water can come only to this point, and no further"; but if God were to let the waters go without restraint, it would flood and destroy everything in its path without mercy. Sin is what destroys and ruins lives; it's very nature and purpose is to destroy things. If God decided not to intervene and restrain it, then there is no way that every one of us would not totally wreck our lives.

This teaching of this truth is almost non-existent today. Think about it. The nature of sin is TO DESTROY EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES. We are all sinful. If God

did not mercifully restrain the effects of sin in each of our lives, we would most certainly destroy ourselves in a very short time.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? (NKJV)

The wickedness in our hearts has no boundaries or moderation; and as long as sinful people inhabit the earth, it will be like a fire that is held back by God, which if let loose would consume the entire world. The heart of man is a place of sin, and if God wasn't keeping us from it, our soul would quickly be consumed in the fire.

7. There is no comfort for the wicked man just because immediate danger or death cannot be seen. In the same way, just because a person is healthy now, the wise man knows that at any moment he could die from an accident - even though he sees no immediate cause for concern. Yet it is the common experience of mankind that we do not think about the fact that we stand on the very edge of eternity, one step away from leaving this world. The number and variety of ways that we could die this very moment are so many, you can't even count them. Unsaved people do not see that they walk over top of Hell on a thin, rotting floor that is so weak it can barely hold their weight; it threatens to break and cave in at any moment, sending

them plummeting to eternal torment. *When is the last time you heard the truth of this? Think about it. There are thousands of ways a person could die at any given moment. For the unsaved, it's like walking a tightrope over the fires of Hell. At any moment, they could lose their balance, trip, the rope could break, a gust of wind could blow them off... any number of things could send them into eternal torment of Hell at any moment. And only the mercy of God keeps it from happening this very second.* When was the last time you heard, or presented, this part of the Gospel?

The potential to die comes at us from all angles, every moment of the day, and yet most are unseen to us because God protects us. There are so many ways that a person can die unexpectedly and be immediately in Hell, that it should almost be considered a miracle that any wicked person lives one minute longer.

All the ways that a sinner can die this second and be in Hell are so numerous, and so much in God's hand, under His power and control, that if He were to quit caring or being concerned for even one moment, then every sinful person would be killed and go immediately to Hell.

That is a point you should not lightly pass over. There are countless ways a person can die at this very second. Each of these ways, like everything, are under the power, control, and providence of Almighty God. If God were to quit caring, quit restraining, or withdraw His

attention for even a moment, then every sinner would no doubt be killed instantly and forever be lost in the tormenting fire of Hell.

8. Our desire or ability to preserve or protect our lives will not secure one extra second of existence for us. It is the common experience of all men that this is indeed true. No amount of money, talent, fame, or power can ensure that you will extend your life for one second past the time God allots you. Man's wisdom certainly gives us no protection from death. If that were true, then we would see some difference between the wise and powerful compared to others; but we don't. All men die with equal opportunity regardless of status or privilege. *Ecclesiastes 2:16 For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool! (NKJV)*The wise and powerful die just as surely and suddenly as the fool.

9. All the efforts and tricks that evil men use to avoid Hell, even while they continue to reject Jesus Christ, will not keep them from Hell even one second less. Almost every person who hears about Hell imagines that it somehow doesn't apply to them, and they entertain the idea that they will escape it somehow; perhaps by being a "good" person. Or perhaps they convince themselves that they will do something in the future that will change things. *People dream up all sorts of plans and ideas that allow them to either*

escape Hell or to be convinced it doesn't exist at all. They believe that what they have thought up is a good idea and must be true. In our day when one person's "truth" is as good as another's truth, people just deny that Hell exists, or believe that a "loving God" wouldn't send anyone there, or they just make up their own religion that declares their safety from Hell. Either way, instead of accepting what God has declared about the reality of Hell, foolish men somehow believe they can just make up their own reality; and even though it will cost them their soul for all eternity, their pride will not allow them to believe otherwise. Sinners hear God's Word that only a few will be saved (compared to how many will be lost) and they hear that the greater part of mankind who has died chose Hell over God, but still hold onto the foolish belief that THEY will be different; that Hell was for others, but not them.

It is not their intention to choose Hell; they do not believe they will end up there. They have every intention and plan to take care of things in the future and arrange life in such a way that Hell will not be their destination.

But this is complete foolishness! Men deceive themselves by their own plans rather than simply following God's plan. They rest their fate in their own wisdom and strength. They place their trust in nothing more than a dream.

The majority of people who have died, having the same grace offered to them by God as we have, have no doubt rejected that grace and are now in Hell; not because they were less wise than we are, but because they simply chose to trust themselves, and not Christ.

If we could ask each person, one by one, who is now in Hell, whether or not they expected to end up there in misery and torment (even though they had been adequately warned while alive), we would no doubt hear them reply:

”No, I never thought I would end up in hell. I had it all figured out. I thought I had things taken care of. I had intended to do something about it, but death came unexpectedly. I wasn’t looking for it when it happened; it came when I wasn’t ready. Death out-smarted me, and God’s wrath came too quickly for me to avoid. What a fool I was! I thought I had it all figured out, deceiving myself with my ignorant ideas; and just when I thought all was well.... Hell came calling.”

No person plans to end up in Hell. To the contrary, we all convince ourselves that we don't deserve it, and that somehow, some way, certainly we will escape it (I'm speaking of those without Christ). We ignore, change the rules, rationalize, or put off dealing with it for a future day. No one plans to go to Hell. No one intends to go to

Hell. No one WANTS to go to Hell. Not one person there right now thought they would be there.

10. God has not promised to keep the unrepentant sinner from death and Hell for even one moment. God has made no promises outside of Christ and the New Covenant to preserve any life, to give any reward, or to save any person from eternal death. And it is true that most people have no interest in Christ, no interest in the New Covenant or the Mediator of that Covenant; and so God is under no obligation to extend to them one less second in Hell.

Given these things, it is plainly true that no matter how much human effort is made, no matter how much religious effort is made, no matter how many prayers are offered up, no matter how much sincerity is involved... until, and unless, a person believes in Jesus Christ for salvation, God is under no obligation to save them from the Hell they themselves have chosen.

This applies to a person no matter how "good" they are as well. It has become popular today to preach a religion of morality and goodness, resurrecting the age-old damnable lie that if a person is simply "more good" than he is bad, that a god who is truly loving could never justly condemn them to Hell. "Goodness" does not save; belief and obedience in the Gospel of Jesus Christ does. That and that alone.

So the truth, regardless of our opinion of it, is that every person is held by the Hand of God over the fires of Hell. We deserve to be dropped into the pit, and our sin has already secured our just and rightful place in the fire.

God is very angry over our sin, and rightfully so. His anger is just as great towards us as it is towards those who are already suffering in Hell. We have done nothing to diminish God's anger, neither is God obligated in any way to keep us from being dropped into Hell at this very moment. *(Again, I speak of those outside of Christ.)*

**The Devil wants each of them.
Hell is open wide.
The flames burn fiercely.**

The sinner craves their sinfulness and has no interest in God. They could fall into Hell at any moment and have no promise of one more second of delay. They have no place of safety they can run to; nothing to hold on to that will keep them from falling.

All that keeps them from Hell this very moment is the will, mercy, and pleasure of God; the same God who has no obligation or promise to protect them for one more second; the same God who is very, very angry over sin.

So how does this truth apply to us? How should we respond?

We don't hear a lot of straightforward talk about Hell today. It's not considered polite or "friendly." My word, folks! Of course it's not friendly! You're talking about confronting someone with the awful reality of eternal condemnation that could start any second!

By discussing this terrible subject, it might certainly wake up the unrepentant sinners who had not yet heard about Hell. What we have said to this point is true for every person outside of Jesus Christ.

The place of misery, full of fire and torment and the raging wrath of God, is waiting below each and every person who has not yet responded to Christ's Gospel. Hell is the horrible pit of fire, burning, waiting to devour you. You have nothing to keep you safe from it; there is nothing but thin air between you and Hell. Only the power and wish of a merciful God keeps you from going there right this moment.

You probably aren't even aware of this; you know you aren't in Hell, but you don't realize that only the Hand of God keeps you from it. Instead you focus on the state of your physical existence, your health, your possessions, and everything you do to take care of yourself.

But these things are nothing! If God moves His hand, they will no more keep you one second from Hell than thin air can keep you from falling!

Your wickedness weighs you down so that you are headed even more surely downward towards Hell; if God decided to let go, you would plunge with great speed into the bottomless pit... then what would your worldly possessions mean? Your health and riches cannot slow down or stop your fall any more than a spider web could stop a falling boulder.

If it was not for the mercy and will of God, you would not be on this earth one second longer. You are a part of the sinful curse that causes the creation to groan in death; for the whole world is in bondage to sin. The sun does not shine on you and give you light so that you may sin against its Creator; it only does so because of the curse of sin. The Earth does not willingly produce food so you can grow strong and pursue your wickedness; it does so because of the curse of sin. Air was not created to fill your lungs so you could curse God.

God's creation was created for good. All things in it were made to help man serve and worship God. The creation and its creatures groan because they are now forced to

help wicked men profane the name of God by their wickedness.

The world would spew out the wicked if it were not for God's Hand keeping it from happening. The black clouds of God's anger hang directly overhead of the wicked. The storm of wrath is raging; and were it not for God's restraint, it would consume every sinner in an instant.

The sovereign pleasure of God, for a while, holds back the storm; otherwise it would rush upon us with destruction like a hurricane or tornado on a pile of hay.

The anger of God regarding sin is like a great body of water that is held back by a dam; the water keeps rising and rising until it finds some way to escape. The longer the source of water is held back, the more intense and quickly it will travel when finally let loose.

It is often true that punishment is delayed for a sinner's wickedness. God's judgment is withheld for a time, but your guilt and punishment are building up constantly and becoming more and more intense. Only the mercy of God keeps your punishment from coming immediately and swiftly.

If God should simply move His Hand, the floods of His fierce wrath would wash us away with inconceivable fury; they would rush on you with all the power of God. If you were one million times stronger than you are now or even if you were the strongest being who has ever existed on earth or in Heaven, you still could not withstand God's rage for even one second.

The bow of God's anger is flexed, and an arrow of fury is drawn back, pointed straight for your heart. Only God keeps the arrow from its flight. Even though He is angry over your sin, and He is under no obligation to restrain the arrow, it is only His mercy and restraint that keeps the arrow from plunging into your heart.

Make no mistake, every person who has not been given a new heart by Christ; every person who is not indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God; every person who is not born again into a new creature in Christ saved from sin; every person who has not experienced the life and light of God are right now at this very moment in the Hands of an angry God.

No matter how many things you have changed in your life, no matter how religious you have been, no matter if you have played "church" all your life, it doesn't matter. If you have not believed and obeyed Jesus Christ, you are

only one moment from being swallowed up into eternal Hell.

It really doesn't matter whether you are convinced of this truth now; **you will be**. Every single person who has ever died in their sins knows the truth about Hell. The truth came upon them suddenly and with complete finality. One moment they were denying that Hell existed, and the next moment they were regretting it. While the words "peace and safety" were coming from their lips, the very things they were placing their hope and trust in disappeared into empty shadows.

God holds you from falling into Hell much the same way someone would hold a spider or creepy insect over a fire. This same God hates your sin and is terribly angry at your wickedness. His wrath burns to be satisfied, to cast the sinner into the flames, worthy of nothing but death because the Eyes of God are too holy to look upon sin.

Our sin is ten thousand times more awful to God than the worst rottenness in the world is to us. We offend God infinitely more than any other human has ever offended us - no matter how terrible or destructive their offense may be. And yet, if you do not belong to Christ, it is the Hand of this very same offended God that keeps you from going to Hell this very moment.

There is no other reason than God that a lost sinner is not this very moment entering the flames of Hell; or that they woke up this moment here and not in torment. There is no other reason than God that death has not come at some point on this day to take the sinner to Hell. There is no other reason than the good will of God why any lost person reading this very sentence does not die instantly and be lost forever.

Listen to me! Think about the terrible danger you are in if you have not obeyed the words of Jesus Christ. You are one moment from being in the flames of Hell, the bottomless pit, the fire of God's wrath, which has been inflamed as much by your sin as the sin of those who are already in Hell.

You are held from Hell by a slender thread. The flames are rising up all around. At any moment, the fire could burn the thread in two and drop you. How can you go on uninterested in God? No one else can save you, certainly not you yourself. Nothing about you, nothing you have ever done, nothing you possess can save you. Nothing about YOU can keep you from going to Hell right this moment. Consider these things:

1. Whose anger are we talking about? The Infinite God, that's who! If we were simply speaking of a man, even

someone powerful like a president, then it would be comparatively easy to ignore. The wrath of a king or dictator who has the power of life and death in their hands no doubt is a scary thing.

Proverbs 20:2 The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; Whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life. (NKJV)

The person who enrages a tyrannical dictator is probably going to suffer, maybe even be tortured cruelly. But the very worst that any earthly power can inflict on man, even with all the resources of wickedness at their disposal, is nothing more than an insignificant speck of nothing compared to the power of the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

In reality, there is comparatively little harm men can inflict on each other, even at its very worst and most furious. All the power of all men on the whole earth is like a grasshopper compared to God; we are like nothing - no, less than nothing!

The wrath of God is infinitely greater than all the power of man, as is His majesty and power:

Luke 12:4-5 “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! (NKJV)

2. It is the intensity of God’s wrath that the lost sinner is exposed to. Consider some of these descriptions of God’s fury (emphasis mine):

*Isaiah 59:18 According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, **Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies;** The coastlands He will fully repay. (NKJV)*

*Isaiah 66:15 For behold, the Lord will come **with fire** And with His chariots, like a whirlwind, **To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.** (NKJV)*

*Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a **sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.** And He Himself will rule them with a **rod of iron.** He Himself treads the winepress of the **fierceness and wrath** of Almighty God. (NKJV)*

These are some pretty scary images! The “wrath of God” is fearsome enough but notice it says the

“fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” The fury of God, the burning anger of Jehovah... how awful and frightening that must be!

Who can imagine what that really means? No matter how terrible we can imagine it, it must be exponentially worse. It's not just “wrath” but “fierceness and wrath”! Think of how bad it would be to feel the fierceness and wrath of some terrible human dictator who unleashed all of his anger and torment on some poor victim...

How much more terrible must it be then for those who feel the fierceness and wrath of God? What will become of the pitiful soul who is the target of the fury of God? Who could endure it? Whose heart will not melt?

Can you imagine the depth of misery that will be experienced by any poor creature who is the object of God's anger? If you have not repented of your sins and obeyed Jesus Christ, think about this:

God will turn His anger and fury on you without pity, without mercy, without relenting.

When God looks down on you in all your suffering and sees that it is infinitely too much for you to bear, that your suffering is immense compared to your ability to endure it, that your soul is crushed and broken in infinite gloom and despair... He will have NO compassion on you. None.

God will not stop nor lessen His execution of anger, torment, and wrath upon you in the slightest amount. There will be no breaks, no relief, no mercy. In no way at all will God let up pouring out His vengeance on the soul who has denied Him.

God will have no regard or care for you except for one thing: **you will not suffer beyond what strict holy justice requires.** Nothing will be withheld no matter how unbearable it will be.

Ezekiel 8:18 Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.” (NKJV)

Right now, this moment, God has pity on you. Today, God has mercy on you and is offering you a chance to escape the coming storm. You can cry out to God this second and He will hear you and show you love and mercy.

But once the day of mercy has passed, it will not matter how much you beg and plead, or cry and repent, or scream and suffer... it will be too late. You will be completely lost and God will not take you back. He will not be concerned with your welfare at that point.

God will have no other purpose or use for you than to see that you suffer. You shall exist for all eternity with no other reason than to be tormented and punished. You will be a container for God's wrath, good for no other use. God will be so deaf to your cries, and so far from showing you any mercy, that it is said He will only "laugh and make fun" of you. (Prov. 1.25-26)

How terrible are these words! This is not the God that we hear about today. This wrath and fury are foreign to us today. And not by accident. How much more would sinful men stop and listen if they believed the truth about Hell and eternity!

Consider how fearsome God's words are (emphasis mine):

*Isaiah 63:3 "I have **trodden** the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have **trodden** them in My anger, And **trampled** them in My **fury**; **Their blood***

is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. (NKJV)

It is hard for us to think of words that describe contempt, hatred, and fierce anger any better than what we find in this verse. Once in Hell, God will simply not ignore your cries for pity, He will trample you under His feet even while you cry out.

And even though God will know full well that you are incapable of bearing the agony of His wrath, He will still ignore you and crush you under His feet without mercy or hesitation. He will crush you to the uttermost so that your blood will fly in all directions and stain God's robes.

Do not make the mistake of thinking this is not true because of the symbolic language. The description in Isaiah is used simply to give us something we can comprehend in our finite minds. And even at this, we cannot possibly begin to conceive of how awful Hell really will be, or we would faint dead at the thought.

God will not only hate you, but He will have the utmost contempt and disgust for you. There will be no place for you in God's presence, and the only thing you will be worthy of is to be stomped down and crushed into nothing.

3. Once in Hell, the misery you are exposed to is the same that will be inflicted for all eternity, without end or break. It is God's purpose to demonstrate the eternal and secure nature of His love, forgiveness, and mercy. So how does it not make sense that it is also true that His wrath and punishment are eternal and sure? God has given plenty of warning.

Once in a while, an earthly king will set out to show how foolish it would be to provoke his wrath. He shows this by inflicting extreme punishments on those who make him mad. Nebuchadnezzar did this to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, by throwing them into a super-heated furnace that was seven times hotter than normal; as hot as humanly possible.

So if man is willing to show his willingness to punish, how much more capable is Almighty God to demonstrate that He most assuredly will execute a penalty on those who provoke Him?

Romans 9:22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, (NKJV)

Understanding that both Heaven and Hell are God's design and plan, to show both His mercy and His

justice, is to have no doubt that He will in fact do so without fail. There is a result and very real purpose behind the display of God's wrath. When the Almighty of Heaven rises up and executes justice on those who have rejected Him, and exercises the full fury of His indignation upon the wicked... then the entire universe will be given notice to behold the majesty and supremacy of the God who is over all.

Isaiah 33:12-13 And the people shall be like the burnings of lime; Like thorns cut up they shall be burned in the fire. Hear, you who are afar off, what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might.” (NKJV)

Make no mistake; this is how it will be for those who reject Jesus Christ. The infinite power and terrible anger of the omnipotent God will be focused directly on you with the purpose of making you suffer. You will be tormented in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb whom you rejected (Jesus).

When this happens, the inhabitants of Heaven will see the awful spectacle as a testimony to the terrible reality of God's wrath and fierceness; then, having seen it, they will fall down and worship the God of Heaven and Earth.

Isaiah 66:23-24 And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord. “And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh. (NKJV)

4. God’s anger towards the unsaved will NEVER end. It would be the most horrible of torments to suffer God’s wrath for one second; the lost will suffer it for all eternity.

There will be no end to the unimaginable, unbearable, exquisite misery that is reserved for those who reject Jesus. *Why do we fail to tell people this?!? We paint for them a picture of how Jesus will make their life better. We share with them the bliss of Heaven; both of which are true, no doubt. But how cowardly, miserably selfish, and uncompassionate of us to allow a single sinner to go on about their life deceived or ignorant about the awful, horrible, terrible eternal punishment they will suffer one instant after death!*

In Hell, the wicked will look forward and see a long “forever,” an endless duration which alone is sufficient torment. The lost will despair every moment realizing they have no hope of release, relief,

escape, or deliverance. You will fully realize that you must endure endless ages, millions upon millions of times, wrestling with this awful reality of eternal condemnation; and then when you have finally reached the end of ages upon ages upon ages, you will realize that it is but a fraction of a second gone in eternity.

Who can imagine being in this state? Who can grasp it? *It is so much harder today to imagine it because we have generations of humans who are convinced that a “loving” God would not send anyone to Hell, much less for all eternity. Couple that with the fact that a large segment of “Christianity” today teaches a “temporary” Hell of some type leading to eventual release to Heaven... and we have reached an age where the reality of Hell according the Bible is not only shunned, but laughed at.*

All that we can possibly say or teach about Hell is but a faint and feeble glimpse at what it will really be like. It is inexpressible and inconceivable, for “who knows the power of God’s anger”?

How scary it is for those who are in danger this very moment of dying and being lost in Hell for all eternity! Sad as it is, this is the case for every single person who has

not heard and responded in obedience to Jesus Christ, regardless of how good, moral, or religious they are.

No matter how young or old you are, please consider the truth of these words. There is plenty of reason to believe that many who are reading these words right now are in danger of the very Hell they are reading about. No one knows for sure except God. No one knows your name or what you are thinking at this moment. You may feel safe. You may read these words and think they are silly, or that they don't apply to you, or you may have no feeling at all about them.

You may even think in the back of your mind that there MUST be a way of escaping Hell because it simply can NOT be true. If there is only one person in the whole world in danger of Hell, it would still be a horrible awful thing. If we knew who that person was, we would have such pity on them! Surely we would lift up a loud and agonizing cry to them to warn them of the danger.

But instead of just one person, how many millions may read these words and remember them only when it is too late? Any how many of those millions will be in Hell this year? This week? Today? No matter how long you live on this earth, it will seem like nothing in the very first instant that God's fury washes over you.

No matter how long you linger on this earth, Hell will come quickly if you do not repent and obey Jesus Christ! The only real puzzle is why you are not there already; and you don't even see that the same God who keeps you safe now, will not keep you safe forever.

No doubt there are some people you have seen and known, that never deserved Hell more than you, who are already there. They have no hope. They are crying out in extreme misery and complete despair; but here you are still living and still hearing the Word of God... you still have a chance for salvation. How much do you think those in Hell would give for one more second of chance to say "yes!" to Jesus? You have that second. What will you do with it?

So right this minute you have an extraordinary opportunity... a moment still yours where Christ has opened the doors of mercy wide and stands calling your name with a loud voice, "come poor sinners while there is still time!" Even now, many are responding to His call from all corners of the world; people who were destined for Hell just a short time ago. But now they are the happiest and most hopeful of the entire world, their hearts filled with love for Him who loved them first and washed their sins with His sacrificed blood. The hope of the glory of God is now their destiny.

If you are reading this, the day of hope still exists for you. How awful to let it pass when it is yours for the taking. How terrible to watch others no more deserving than you accept the free gift of salvation while you let it pass yet again. How can you rest for one moment if your destiny is eternal punishment? Your soul is as precious as any who has ever come to Christ; so why not you? Why not now?

There are many older people reading this that have lived a long time in this world and have not yet obeyed Christ. They have done nothing with their entire lives except build up the wrath of God against themselves. Their situation is extremely dangerous! Their heart has been hardened to God's message and hope is slipping away.

In general, do you not see that the older someone gets, the less likely they are to turn to God in faith and repentance even though God's grace extends to all in this day of mercy? You need to wake up before it's too late! You cannot bear the wrath and fury of the Infinite God who is no respecter of your age or status!

And young men and women, listen up! Will you waste this precious opportunity to obey Christ while you have your whole life to give Him glory? Will you do what most other young people are doing, living for pleasure and

foolishness? Many your age are turning to Christ and living a glorious life, will you be left behind?

You have an extraordinary opportunity... you have heard and understood salvation at a young age. But if you neglect it, you will end up like all the others who have lived a life of sin and become hard and blind to God's Word.

And children... you are no different. I know it's scary, but Hell awaits all who have sinned. Many children from all over the world trust Christ for salvation every day and become children of the Most High King. Will you miss this opportunity today?

Let every single person who has not obeyed Christ understand their situation: there are suspended over the flames of Hell this very moment. Whether young or old, men or women, adult or child... all of you hear the voice of God offering you salvation and eternal life.

This day is the day God is extending His saving grace to you; it will be a day of great rejoicing for some, and a day of great vengeance for others. Those who ignore this call today will have their hearts hardened at a quickened pace and they face the danger of having their eyes blinded forever to God's mercy.

God is quickly gathering His children from all parts of the world and most likely the greater part of all persons who will be saved have been, or will be in short time. The time of grace is drawing quickly to a close. Those who hear the call of God, the Elect, will be saved and the rest left for destruction.

If you pass up God's call today and end up in Hell, you will curse this moment for all eternity... for salvation is but one decision of obedience from being yours. To pass up this opportunity will be to curse the day you born, wishing that you had never seen or heard of the mercy of God which you refused and rejected.

No doubt that today is the same as it was in the day of John the Baptist, when the Lord said that every tree that did not bear fruit (meaning every person who did not respond to Him) would be cut down and thrown in the fire.

LET EVERY PERSON WHO HAS NOT
SURRENDERED TO AND OBEYED CHRIST wake
up and run from the wrath that is coming! The wrath of
God is now waiting for many who are reading these very
words. Don't let it be you. Run from evil! Run for your
life into the arms of Jesus! Don't look back; escape to
God lest you be lost in Hell forever.

Messages About Hell

By Brent Riggs

Hell Gets a Bad Rap – Part 1

Revelation 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (NKJV)

Hell is getting a bad rap. Okay, not Hell itself, but the topic; or more specifically, whether or not it should be routinely discussed, studied, or used in presenting the Gospel. Why do I say that?

Because it has become almost considered downright rude and archaic to: 1) tell a sinner they are headed to Hell at any moment; and 2), discuss the reality of Hell in the Church today. It's considered bad Christian marketing; "scaring people" or promoting a "negative" Gospel rather than a "positive" one. Satan has succeeded in reducing Hell to silly imagery, desensitized vocabulary, and snicker-producing ideas:

- Fire & brimstone (typically meant to describe and "old fashioned" type of preacher).
- Hell is where Satan and the demons party with the sinners.
- Satan has a red suit, pointy tail, horns and pitchfork.

- Satan and demons are routinely banished and defeated by mortal men in Hollywood movies - giving us a very un-Biblical view of what they really are.
- Phrases like “what the hell” and “go to hell” desensitize people about the reality of Hell and cause them to think very casually about it.
- Hell is an old-fashioned religious idea.
- Hell can’t be real because a loving God wouldn’t send people there.
- If Hell is real, it’s ridiculous to think God would send you there for all eternity.
- Only the really bad people go to Hell; that’s not me.
- Hell is not real, it’s just a state of unhappiness, or is merely a euphemism for evil.
- Hell is the complete annihilation of “evil” people.

And on and on. Satan has done a masterful job at causing people (including Christians) to see anything but the hard core truth about Hell.

**It’s considered laughable by the world
to present Hell as real.**

**It's considered a poor selling technique
or "harsh" by the Church.**

That's a pretty tough thing to say, but how many churches, evangelistic outreaches, or teachers present WITH EQUAL BALANCE the realities of Hell? Modern Christianity is dominated by a "Jesus will improve your life mentality"; a "Madison Avenue, accentuate the benefits, downplay the costs" sales & marketing type of Gospel.

At this point comes the most common comment I hear... "Oh, so you're supposed to SCARE people to Heaven, huh?"; "You don't get people saved by offering them fire insurance!"; or "people want to hear about love not Hell!" An objective observer would rightly conclude that the Gospel today is "Jesus loves you and will make everything better." Now don't get me wrong, that of course is completely true - especially from an eternal perspective. The problem with that mentality is that it has turned the Gospel into a man-made effort to persuade or "sell" people on Jesus based solely on "features and benefits." Sales 101.

The Bible doesn't present a Gospel that is Sales 101

(features & benefits; downplay the cost).

The Gospel of Scripture is Truth 101

(the reality of Hell; the solution of Jesus Christ)

Just in case you fall into that category of people who think lessons on Hell, or a Gospel presentation that includes Hell, is not useful, productive, or Biblical, let me give you a taste of what we will cover in this section:

What does the Bible have to say about Hell?

- It has eternal fire and torment.
- You will remember and regret your chance to obey God.
- You will thirst but never drink.
- You will be in misery and pain.
- You will always be angry, frustrated, and desperate.
- You will be alone.
- You will feel the full weight of God's anger.
- You will never, ever, ever leave.

Myths, heresies, and false teaching about Hell:

- It is temporary.

- It is really just annihilation.
- It is a bunch of “bad” people enjoying their sinful ways for all eternity.
- It is the demon hangout or playground.
- It is simply a description of evil.
- Satan is the ruler of Hell.
- No, a loving God will not send you there.

Hell and the Gospel

- Why it is avoided today.
- What is the effect of leaving Hell out of the Gospel message?
- The “Jesus will improve your life” Gospel.
- Should it be included in evangelism?
- How should it be communicated to sinners?
- How should it be taught to Believers?
- Why it is not “fire insurance.”
- Hell, one second away.

I want to give you reasons to help you realize that sharing the wrath of God is just as important as sharing the love of God. You see, we believe that **warning about Hell is a scare**

tactic that produces emotional, false converts to Christ. **Let me propose that more false converts exist because of the “Jesus will improve your life” Gospel, than will ever exist by “scaring” someone about Hell.**

Why? Because when life gets tough, Christians who were converted because Jesus was supposed to fix everything, bail out. The deal falls through. They were sold a product that doesn't work. But people who clearly and unmistakably came to Christ because they understood the consequences of rejecting Him, do not bail out when the storms hit. Does that mean that scary “Hell talk” is the only real way to share the Gospel? NO, NO, NO, and NO again!

**We aren't responsible for the
results of the Message... God is!
Our responsibility is to deliver the Message -
the whole Message.**

We are responsible to deliver the Joe Friday “just the facts, ma'am,” balanced courtroom version of the Truth... “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” We are to give a

balanced, honest, and full disclosure of what Jesus is all about: eternal life and blessing; or eternal death and the wrath of God.

We are not SALESMEN!

We are AMBASSADORS!

We're not selling a product, we are delivering a message. God has determined what that message is, and it is not up to us to re-work it into something a little easier to swallow. Heaven or Hell. Life or death. Jesus or Satan. The whole truth and nothing but the truth.

If you are a person who thinks that a study about Hell is “unloving” or simply unpleasant and therefore to be avoided, I hope you will prayerfully reconsider. There is a lost and dying world all around you. Any lost person can die at ANY SECOND and be instantly in the flames of eternal Hell. If that was true about you and you didn't know it, wouldn't you want someone to tell you?

Hell – The Bible Speaks

If you were standing in the middle of the train tracks, unaware that a train was coming around the corner at 70mph and going to run you over any minute... would you consider it negative, harsh, or a “scare tactic” for me to warn you about your impending death? What if I just told you how soft the grass was on the side of tracks and pleaded with you to come on over and enjoy the scenery?

Or would you want me to warn you sternly and passionately? Obviously, you would want me to be urgent and truthful about the oncoming danger.

Is Hell less scary, less dangerous, or less imminent than an oncoming train?

If you are unsaved, there is only one correct answer: it’s eternally more scary; infinitely more dangerous; and not only imminent, but inevitable apart from Christ. So why would we warn the lost with any less urgency, passion, or truthfulness

than we would warn someone about a train barreling down the tracks they are standing on?

Well, it's time for an important disclaimer: Yes, the love of Jesus, God's mercy, and the blessings of salvation are a vital, crucial, and inseparable part of the Gospel message. My point in this message is that the part about Hell is just as vital, crucial, and inseparable. Balance. Scripture. Truth. The first step in simply and truthfully telling the lost about Hell is to know what the Bible says about it. So let's look...

Hell is a place of eternal fire and torment.

- Matthew 3:12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”(NKJV)
- Matthew 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (NKJV)
- Mark 9:43-44 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be

quenched—where “Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.” (NKJV)

There is a reason that Hell is associated with fire. Fire is one of the most fearsome, painful, and destructive elements known to man. Even a small burn can keep you in agony for days. No doubt, Hell will be much worse than anything we can imagine about fire, but it is probably the closest tangible thing God can describe to us to give us a sense of what it will be like.

The Bible calls Hell a “furnace,” which is an oven-type device used specifically for creating the highest temperatures possible. The furnace of Hell will never go out, never lessen, and never go down for maintenance. That is why Jesus warned us that it is better to get to Heaven maimed, disfigured, and disabled, than go to Hell with a whole body. This was not a simple scare tactic... it is the compassionate truth that the Lord is trying to get through our thick, stubborn skulls.

You will always remember what you lost and regret your decision to reject Christ.

- Luke 16:19-31 “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. “Then 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 in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment. ‘Abraham said to him, ‘They have

Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’” (NKJV)

It is a common misconception that as soon as you die, you become someone or something else; or that you become detached from the memories of your life on earth. Not according to the Bible. We will know each other in Heaven. We will recognize those we have known (I think we will instinctively know every person, but that’s my opinion). We will have our memories, good and bad, but somehow we will have such a full understanding that they will not make us sad anymore (Rev 21.4).

There is no reason to think that those in Hell won’t remember the lost chances and the rejections of the Gospel. There is no reason to think that intense, unbearable remorse and regret for ignoring the truth will not be part of the suffering of Hell.

It is devastating to even think about. Stop for a minute and try to imagine that after a million million years of unbearable

suffering, your regret won't lessen your time in Hell one single second. One second after entering Hell, you will know with full clarity the tragic mistake you have made – and it will be too late.

You will be thirsty, but never get a drink.

- Luke 16:24 “Then 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.’(NKJV)

Water is the primary element of life. So it makes sense that part of the suffering in Hell will be a deprivation of refreshing water. Heaven will have the River of Life flowing from the Throne (Rev 22.1). The Sahara desert is a swimming pool compared to Hell.

Very few of us in the West have ever really experienced life-threatening thirst. We have a hard time grasping the awfulness of extreme thirst. Your skin burns. Your tongue swells up. Your eyes dry up. You cramp and ache. You become delirious and fainting. Your entire being is consumed with only the thought of getting water. It becomes maddening and desperate.

Can you imagine a continuing and intensifying torment of thirst? Why do you think God chose to make water an issue in Hell? Because Jesus is the water of life, and everyone in Hell will remember by their thirst the Living Water they rejected:

John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” (NKJV)

You will be in agony, pain, and constant misery.

- Revelation 14:10-11 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (NKJV)

This is one of the well-known characteristics of Hell – suffering/punishment. You will be in pain. You will never get a

break, never receive comfort, and the torment will never lessen. The “smoke of their torment” will ascend forever. You will never rest, ever. Not one second of relief will ever come no matter how much crying, begging, and pleading is heard. Only misery. Only pain. Only hopelessness. Think about it.

You will be bitter, angry, frustrated, and desperate for all eternity.

- Matthew 13:41-42 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (NKJV)
- Matthew 24:51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NKJV)

Wailing and gnashing of teeth – this is a picture of frustration and break down. It is the ultimate level of being “sick and tired.” Those in Hell will thrash about, flail their arms, scream, and grind their teeth in frustration and hopelessness. There will be the never-ending wailing of death and despair. It will be a

million times more sad and bitter than any situation you can possibly dream of on this earth.

You will experience the full fury and wrath of God.

- Revelation 14:10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. (NKJV)

For those in Hell, God's mercy is gone. His patience has ended. There is no more restraint or pity. The "full cup" of His anger will be poured out for all eternity. It will never end, never cease, never lessen, and never change in any way. Can you imagine being the target of God's anger for one second? How about a thousand years? A million? The thought should make you quiver.

You will never, ever, ever, get a break or be allowed to escape.

- Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (NKJV)
- Jude 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (NKJV)

EVERLASTING – lasting or enduring through all time : continuing long or indefinitely : tediously persistent :wearing indefinitely

ETERNAL – having infinite duration : continued without intermission : seemingly endless : existing at all times : timeless

Punishment that never ends. Indefinite agony. Persistent torment. Misery with no breaks. Endless hopelessness.

Hell is all about extremes. If you make the extreme choice to ignore, deny, or reject Jesus, you will suffer the most extreme punishment imaginable by an all-powerful, jealous, and angry God. BUT never forget that everyone in Hell is there by personal choice. God is never to blame for even one lost soul.

Hell – Lies, Myths, & Heresies

Hell is real. That is considered a controversial and “extreme” position to hold today.

Chalk one up for Satan. He knows how to play the game. Take away one of the most effective, urgent, and critical arguments (the existence of Hell) for sinful man to repent and you’ve got half the game won. Then Satan just waits to let people discover that Jesus doesn’t really keep His “promise” to “fix” everything and make life easy... and what you’ve got left is a whole world of people who have “tried Jesus” and it didn’t work.

Or, Satan convinces everyone that “all truth is God’s truth” and “all roads lead to Heaven.” Hell becomes irrelevant or fiction; take your pick.

The “Jesus will improve your life” Gospel is very popular today along with the “tolerance” movement that says we all have a right to believe the way we want – all roads lead to God eventually. Well, not according to the Living Word of God and the

Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus taught a very narrow, frightening, and intense view of Hell.

A quick review ...

- Hell is a place of eternal fire and torment – Matthew 3:12; Matthew 13:42; Mark 9:43-44
- You always remember what you lost and regret your decision to reject Christ – Luke 16:19-31; Rev 21.4
- You will be thirsty, but never get a drink – Luke 16:24; John 4:14
- You will be in agony, pain and constant misery – Revelation 14:10-11;
- You will be bitter, angry, frustrated and desperate for all eternity – Matthew 13:41-42; Matthew 24:51
- You will experience the full fury and wrath of God – Revelation 14:10
- You will never, ever, ever, get a break or be allowed to escape – Matthew 25:46; Jude 7

The reason why Hell is either ignored or considered so lightly, is because: 1) Satan has introduced myths which belittle the idea of Hell; and, 2) churches are propagating poor teaching, as well

as ignoring the subject all together. Let's take a look at some of the common fallacies the make the rounds in churches and society at large:

Hell is temporary.

This false teaching comes in many forms. One of the primary is that of “purgatory.” The Catholic Church teaches that Purgatory is a Hell-like place where sinners are punished for a finite length of time, then once they pay their penalty, get to go to Heaven. Only those who reject Catholicism are destined for the “eternal” Hell.

The problem with that is: 1) the idea is utterly foreign to Scripture; and most importantly, 2) it has the sinner paying his own penalty for his salvation - which violates the fundamental principle of salvation: **justification through Christ by faith alone** (or in plain English “the only way you can be saved is by trusting and obeying Jesus Christ”; Rom 3.21-26). The Bible simply, plainly, and with great clarity declares there is no second chance after death:

- Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (NKJV)
- Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (NKJV)
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (NKJV)

Hell is just annihilation.

What this means is that God will simply cause all the lost multitudes to disappear from existence.

- Luke 16:22-23 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (NKJV)

It’s a little bit difficult for someone who doesn’t exist to “lift up their eyes,” see someone “afar off,” and in the next verse, speak.

It is equally hard for the non-existent to have memories, thirst for water, be in pain, be frustrated, weeping and gnash their teeth (Matt. 3:12; 13:41–42; Mark 9:43; Luke 16:19–31; Luke 16:24; Rev. 14:10, 11; Matt. 13:42; 24:51; Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 15; Hab. 3:2; Rev. 14:10; Matt. 25:41).

Hell is NOT annihilation. It is real, it is eternal; and it will be full of real people there in torment and punishment.

Hell is a bunch of “bad” people having a party that God sort of frowns on.

Referencing the same group of verses, the notion that Hell is a frat party for the “naughty people” is ridiculous. You see cartoons, commercials, and sitcoms joking about Hell as the place where all the “bad” people spend eternity drinking Budweiser and making fun of the “goody-two-shoes” in Heaven with their little wings and white robes.

Or you get the idea that Hell is just sort of “not Heaven” and the people there are a little grouchy that they got a bum deal. Satan has done a masterful job painting Hell as anything except what it really is. It is considered almost a joke to present Hell in

Biblical terms and proportions... “you can’t be serious! You don’t actually believe that nonsense from the Dark Ages do you?”

Hell is the demon hangout or playground.

Another spin on the previous myth is that Hell is where all the demons and Satan hang out to plan their mischief and devilry. The demons are ugly-little-midget things running around bickering like little children while Satan towers annoyingly over them in his red suit and pitchfork. You have a few demons over in the corner snickering about a dirty joke, and a couple over there whispering about something they “got away with” when God wasn’t looking.

Hell is such a joke now that it elicits little more than snickers, taunts, or patronizing reactions when someone stands up to tell the truth about it. People’s response range from “you’ve got to be kidding me” to “how quaint.” Here’s a sample of an email I received on the subject:

“Brent’s view on Hell seems to coincide with most Western belief systems. I just never have for a moment believed in the concept of a fiery Hell... For

me to believe in Hell I'd have to believe in the bible as the Word of God. And I do not. I think men wrote what they wanted people to believe and left out critical perhaps controversial things that did not go along with their teachings... my belief system makes me happy as yours does you... We're all on different paths but they all end up with God."

How tragic that this false belief will only become clear one second after the person dies... but then it will be too late.

Hell is simply a description of evil.

Sometimes people say that Hell is just a state of mind, or a way to describe the totality of evil. It is implied that anything "not God" is "Hell." It is amazing the lengths people go to in order to keep Hell from being a real place (especially when the very same people gladly accept that Heaven exists). Hell is real. It is a place. It probably exists in another dimension from us, but nonetheless is real. It is not a euphemism. It is not symbolic.

The Bible declares plainly that Hell is a real place that will trap and torment real people for a real eternity.

Satan is the ruler of Hell.

Satan is not King of Hell. God rules Hell. Hell is a prison for Satan, not a “kingdom” He will have free reign in. Hell is a place of punishment for fallen angels, not a retirement home:

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (NKJV)

There is a heretical teaching making the rounds today and being propagated by some of our most publicly visible “Christian” personalities. The heresy goes something like this: Jesus was born a man. He became God when He was baptized by John. He lost His deity when He died on the cross. Jesus went to Hell and got beat up on by Satan for three days. Then Jesus was “born again” and became “god” again; yes, “born again” – just like us (hence, it is said by these teachers that WE are “gods, little ‘g’”; that we are created in God’s image and born again just like Jesus which makes us ‘gods’).

Although every part of this teaching is a damnable heresy that constitutes preaching “another Jesus” (Gal 1.8-9), the part of

interest to our lesson is the idea that Jesus went to Hell and got beat up by Satan for three days.

First of all, Satan is not in Hell. He is on the earth, ruling the wicked (Gen 1; Ezek 28; 2Cor 4.4; John 12.31). He wants NO part of Hell because He knows that it is his future prison (Matt 25.41). He fears it every bit as much as we should. Second, Satan is not the ruler of Hell, God is. God controls Hell, not Satan. Satan isn't in Hell beating up on anybody MUCH LESS JESUS! What does Satan care about who is in Hell? He only cares about those who are NOT there yet! (and Jesus did not go to Hell for punishment but to declare victory to those imprisoned – but that's another lesson; 1Pet 3.19)

This teaching goes mostly unquestioned because of typical ignorance about what the Bible declares about Hell. Satan does not rule Hell. God does.

**A loving God would never send His
creation to eternal punishment.**

This is the most common objection to Hell. You hear it ad nauseum, even in the church; even in fundamental churches.

While this myth is partly caused by ignorance about Hell, it is more the result of a lack of teaching about God's character. Consider this:

**God would not be loving,
If He did not send people to Hell for all eternity.**

Why? Because God is Perfect in all ways. Perfect love requires that God be true to His nature. Being true to His perfect nature means that God must keep His word. God must punish sin; and God only has two choices: life or death. No sin can exist in the presence of a perfectly holy God, so a sinful person has to be penalized and the only acceptable penalty is death.

A person who has accepted and obeyed Christ is no longer sinful because God has supernaturally applied (imputed) the righteousness of Christ to the sinner (who never sinned, thus does not deserve punishment); God punished Christ for our sin thereby satisfying the need for sin to be punished by death.

There are many theological reasons why death is the only acceptable punishment for sin, but it will suffice here to simply say that the Creator has declared to the creature (you and me)

that the result of sin is death, and we need no other reason than that. (Rom 3.23)

So God is love, and love provided a way for us to be saved. That same love would not be perfect love if it did not punish those who reject the offer of love. On a simpler level, what loving earthly father does not administer both love and discipline to his children with equal diligence? It is not hard to understand that a parent does not truly love their children if they do not follow through with appropriate discipline and punishment when necessary.

A loving God will, and must, keep His word and condemn those who reject His Son. What an insult it would be to Jesus for God to excuse those who turn their back on Him.

Hell is not a myth or a symbol or a cartoon. It is a real, terrible, awful, horrible reality. We warn people constantly of dangers that are nothing in comparison to Hell; and yet consider it rude to confront people about the imminent danger of eternal

condemnation. How sad for us. How devious and cunning of Satan. Chalk one up for the Father of Lies – he loves being underestimated.

Hell – An Important Part of the Gospel

Hell doesn't fit into today's market-driven church environment or sensitive, Madison Avenue version of the Gospel. We attract people with programs, resources, entertainment, and promises of blessings. Hell just isn't "seeker friendly."

Is that to say that the Gospel should be all about scaring people and threatening them with impending doom without declaring the love, mercy, and blessings of God? Of course not, that's my point. **We need a healthy, Biblical balance of the complete Gospel as presented by Jesus and the Apostles.** That includes both Heaven and Hell. That includes both love and anger. That includes both blessings and consequences. That includes both forgiveness and punishment.

It makes sense **from a human standpoint** to package the Gospel in the most attractive way possible. As Christians, we have become very concerned about the world's opinion of us. We don't want to appear to be "fanatics" or old-fashioned kooks. We want to attract people to Jesus through the lure of

how salvation benefits us. We want to “attract” people, not inform them.

We are selling to them, instead of witnessing to them.

**A story in the Wall Street Journal
reported that a growing number
of churches have services aimed at.... pets.**

Yes, pets. (WSJ, 3-10-04). Church services are held to improve the lives and CHANCES FOR SALVATION for pets. It is believed that more people will come to church if church is more “relevant.” (Don’t laugh; how many things are done in fundamental churches today in the name of relevancy that would have been borderline ‘heathen’ ten years ago). Pets get to partake in communion. Funerals and “bark mitzvahs” are held for them.

Okay, that is an extreme example, granted. But it is the natural and logical result of man trying to “package” Christianity to be more appealing. When the techniques, tricks, and seeker-friendly methods are questioned, the next claim that arises is: “What’s wrong with it? It works!”

It must be okay because it works. That is what you call “pragmatic truth”; truth that is decided based on what is tested and works. The problem with that is... God doesn't work that way. He has declared what TRUTH is, and our responsibility is to deliver His message to the world exactly as He has given it to us. **GOD IS REPOSNSIBLE FOR THE RESULTS, NOT US.** Again, we are Ambassadors, not Sales Reps!

A quick review ...

- Hell is a place of eternal fire and torment – Matthew 3:12; Matthew 13:42; Mark 9:43-44
- You always remember what you lost and regret your decision to reject Christ – Luke 16:19-31; Rev 21.4
- You will be thirsty, but never get a drink – Luke 16:24; John 4:14
- You will be in agony, pain and constant misery – Revelation 14:10-11;
- You will be bitter, angry, frustrated and desperate for all eternity – Matthew 13:41-42; Matthew 24:51
- You will experience the full fury and wrath of God – Revelation 14:10

- You will never, ever, ever, get a break or be allowed to escape – Matthew 25:46; Jude 7
- Hell is not temporary – Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
- Hell is not annihilation – Luke 16:22-23; Matt. 3:12; 13:41–42; Mark 9:43; Luke 16:19–31; Luke 16:24; Rev. 14:10, 11; Matt. 13:42; 24:51; Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 15; Hab. 3:2; Rev. 14:10; Matt. 25:41
- Hell is not a bunch of “naughty” people having a party.
- Hell is not a playground for the demons.
- Hell is not simply a description of evil.
- Satan is not the ruler of Hell – Matthew 25:41
- A loving God not only will, but must, send those who reject Him to Hell for all eternity – Rom 3.23

Why is Hell a critical part of the Gospel message? Umm, isn't it obvious? Millions are people are headed there. Any one of them could go at any second. How is it that you have to convince Christians that telling people about Hell is not only necessary but COMPASSIONATE?

Hell is an important part of the Gospel because Jesus and the Apostles considered it important. The talked about it an

awful lot: Matt. 11:23;16:18; Luke 10:15;16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 1:18;6:8;20:13, 14; Matt. 5:22, 29, 30;10:28;18:9;23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5;Jas. 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:4; Matt. 3:12; Matt. 5:29 v. 30; Matt. 7:13 v. 14.; Matt. 8:11, 12; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 13:30, 38–42, 49, 50; Matt. 16:18; Matt. 18:8, 9, 34, 35;Matt. 22:13; Matt. 25:28–30, 41, 46; Mark 9:43, 44 vs. 45–48.; Matt. 5:29. Luke 3:17 Matt. 3:12. Luke 16:23, 24, 26 vs. 25,28; Acts 1:25. 2 Thess. 1:9; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6, 23; Rev. 9:1, 2 Rev. 11:7. Rev. 14:10, 11; Rev. 19:20; Rev. 20:10, 15; Rev. 21:8 Rev. 2:11.

They obviously did not consider it trivial, rude, or poor marketing. Hell is real. Look at the next person you see. If they are unsaved, they could drop dead from a heart attack and be in Hell right now this second. So are you being rude or being compassionate by informing them of that truth?

Hell is an important part of the Gospel because it inserts an element of urgency that is otherwise missing. Trying to “sell” the Gospel leaves people with the idea that there is time to ponder, consider, and weigh the decision about Christ. This is simply not accurate, nor compassionate. The time to obey Christ is NOW because you are not guaranteed one single

second of life. There are a thousand ways to die at any given moment.

Hell is an important part of the Gospel because of the finality and eternity of the decision. Telling someone that “Jesus will improve your life,” and you get to go to Heaven to boot, does not convey the tragic result of what happens if you reject Christ. This decision affects eternity. You can only be wrong once. No second chance. People need to be very, very clear what their rejection of Christ really means.

Hell is an important part of the Gospel because it helps the hearer to understand the full nature of God. It is not enough to simply appeal to them on the basis that “God is love.” God IS love; perfect love. But He is also perfect justice, jealousy, anger, wrath, and power. Including the reality of Hell in the Gospel presentation allows the hearer to get a complete picture of Who they are dealing with. God is love and mercy and kindness and patience and forgiveness and blessing..... oh yes, people need to know that. But they need to know the terrible wrath of God that comes with rejecting His offer of love and forgiveness.

Hell is an important part of the Gospel because it gives us reason to persevere when times get tough. Consider this story (I didn't make it up, but I can't remember where I read it):

A guy gets on a commercial airliner and is approached by the airline attendant. She tells him to put on this big bulky parachute saying that it will "improve his flight." She explains that the flight will be more pleasant, that he will feel better, and that the flight in general will just be more enjoyable. And when the flight is over, he will be safe. So he puts on the parachute and tries to squeeze into the cramped little airline seat. Well as the flight goes on he gets more and more uncomfortable. His back hurts, his shoulder hurts, he can't find a way to sit that is relaxing. What's more, people begin to make fun of him. They snicker and laugh at him and make comments about what an idiot he is to wear a parachute on a commercial flight. After a while, he gets sick of hearing the criticism and taunts, and along with the discomfort and aching muscles, decides to take the parachute off. The parachute apparently does NOT make the flight better, so why bother.

Guy number two gets on the airplane and the airline attendant gives him a parachute as well. Then she leans over and whispers in his ear "at 30,000 feet we are going to open the door and throw everyone

out.” This guy sits down and experiences the same discomfort, the same aching muscles, the same taunting and criticism; but of course there is no possible way that he is going to take the parachute off because he understands the consequences of the decision.

You can see where I’m going with this. Many people put Jesus on for a while because they have been told that “Jesus will improve your life,” which is all well and good unless you leave out the part concerning the consequences of rejecting Jesus. So many people give Jesus a bit of a chance and then the inevitable hardships of life come upon them. Then the equally inevitable criticism and taunting begins to occur and pretty soon you are left with a person who feels like Jesus did not live up his promise to make their life better.

Without a clear understanding of Hell, you have neglected to give the person a second very compelling reason to obey Jesus – if you don’t, they could be condemned to eternal torment and suffer the wrath of God.

That’s a powerful motivator, not fire insurance. Hell is an important part of presenting the Gospel.

Distasteful Doctrines: Hell

The Bible is very clear, very direct, and very thorough about Hell. No matter how much the subject is ignored, excused, or distorted, it doesn't change the fearful and terrible fact:

**One microsecond after you die without Christ,
you will find yourself in unimaginable terror,
horrific pain, and unspeakable torment.**

**There will never be a single opportunity to lessen
the pain or escape the torment, for all eternity.**

We aren't doing anyone without Christ any favors by hiding, sugarcoating, or ignoring that awful fact – any more than we do someone a favor by ignoring the bus that is about to run them down simply because we don't want to hurt them while getting them off the road. Hell is real. Hell is a fact. Hell is eternal. We warn people constantly about AIDS, disease, drugs, terrorism, scams, and a myriad of other dangers, but have been brainwashed to think that warning people about Hell is “unloving” or simply offering “fire insurance.” Let's look at some facts about Hell and see if YOU would want to be warned (emphasis mine in all following verses):

- **Hell is eternal, it never stops; it never lessens; it never lets up; it never goes out; you never leave; you never get a rest, a break, or a vacation... EVER**
- Matthew 3:12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with **unquenchable** fire.” (NKJV)
- Matthew 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be **wailing and gnashing of teeth.** (NKJV)
- Mark 9:43-44 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall **never** be quenched— where “Their worm does not die And **the fire is not quenched.**” (NKJV)
- Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into **everlasting** punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (NKJV)
- Jude 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of **eternal** fire. (NKJV)
- **You always remember what you lost and will always regret your decision to reject Christ.**

- Luke 16:19-28 “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in **torments** in Hades, **he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.** “Then 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 in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’
- You will be thirsty, but never get a drink. You will long for relief, but it will never come. You will beg for rest, but it will never happen. Nothing you wish for will be granted. Hell is a place of tremendous physical suffering and pain that will never lessen or be relieved.**

- Luke 16:24 “Then 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.**’ (NKJV)

- **You will be bitter, angry, frustrated, and desperate for all eternity.**

- Matthew 13:41-42 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be **wailing and gnashing of teeth.** (NKJV)

- Matthew 24:51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.** (NKJV)

- **Hell is a place of darkness, loneliness, frustration, and desperation. You will be in pitch blackness, all alone, without God, forever and ever; with no points of reference, nothing familiar, and no way to get used to it.**

- Matthew 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into **outer darkness.** There will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” (NKJV)

- Revelation 20:3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should

deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. (NKJV)

- **Hell will be the ultimate exile and rejection from God, where you will never have another chance, ever, to appeal to God, see God, or accept God.**
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,** (NKJV)

Hell is all about extremes. If you make the extreme choice to ignore, deny, or reject Jesus, you will suffer the most extreme punishment imaginable by an all-powerful, jealous and angry God. BUT never forget that everyone in Hell is there by personal choice. God is never to blame for even one lost soul.

Far from avoiding the subject of Hell, we only stand to rescue the lost by warning them of it:

Jude 20-23 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a

distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. (NKJV)

Contrary to current popular opinion, one of the single most-loving things you can do is to warn someone who is lost of the impending danger and consequence of death without Christ. We should share the reality of Hell along with the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. A person cannot understand the need for Christ if they do not understand: 1) what they have done wrong (sin); and, 2) the reality they face (Hell) if they choose to do nothing about their sin.

Jesus had a lot to say about Hell. If He thought it important to talk about, shouldn't we?