

The Benefits Of Hell

Introduction. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 11:1, "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me." Paul had to boast of himself in 2 Corinthians 11:21-33 in order to make the false apostles appear in their true colors. Today, I want us to consider, with a little foolishness, the benefits of hell. They tell us that if we look close enough at anything we can find something good about it. Sure enough, for the benefit of all who are making plans to go to hell, we have closely examined that place and have concluded that there really are some advantages in going to hell.

Now I want to go ahead and let you in on a secret: hell is not a place where we want to be. When you study all the scriptures concerning hell, you will discover four points: 1) hell is a place of intense suffering; 2) hell is a place of memory; 3) hell is a place of despair; and 4) hell is a place of no escape. We are going to look at some aspects which will definitely be missed once you are in hell. I want you to think about what you take for granted or just outright hate and solemnly think about your position before God today.

I. ***No More Preaching***

- A. Paul commanded Timothy and Titus to be fervent preachers because the Lord's work needed them (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:15). Timothy is told to preach when it is convenient or inconvenient, opportune or inopportune and favorable or unfavorable. We must preach when the people want to hear it and we they do not. He was told to reprove (expose and convict), rebuke (warn and censure) and exhort (encourage and admonish). After being given a similar instruction, Titus was told not to let anyone look down upon, make light of you or treat you with contempt.
- B. Some folks have the feeling that every time they attend services the preacher picks on them. They think all he does is sit around dreaming up some new way to make them mad. For this reason, some do not want to get too close to the preacher. Unless they are on their deathbed, they avoid him. Spasmodic attendance is usually an indication.
- C. If preachers are making you nervous, if preachers are making you mad by trying to get you to do better and are telling you where you are going if you do not, then just wait a while! You will be in a place where you will never be bothered by preachers again. You can show them a thing or two. You will never have to listen to another message preached or another warning. This is not to say there will not be some preachers in hell. There may be many of them there. But they will not be preaching there.

II. **No More Contributions**

- A. God requires a level of sacrifice from His children. Not only is there a sacrifice of lives and time, but there is also a sacrifice of our prosperity (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7). For the church to function and fulfill its purposes, every member must give of their means and be willing to sacrifice.
- B. Some have a rough time enduring this on earth. It is an imposition on their wallet or purse and they find it disgusting. Here is good news! One of the benefits of hell is that there will be no contributions, sermons on giving or classes on the subject. Not one place in the word of God is there any mention whatsoever about giving in hell.
- C. While preachers may be there, they will not be asking for donations. If you find it disturbing to be faced with sacrificing for the greatest work on earth, then rest assured that once you enter the portals of hell you will never hear another sermon on giving or have to look at another collection plate. With some, this will be the greatest benefit.

III. **No More Calls For Holy Living**

- A. Once the gospel has washed away our sins, it then commands us to live in a holy manner (Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 2:9-10; Ephesians 4:20-24). Our lives must become more like Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1)!
- B. One of the aspects many do not like about the church of Christ is its emphasis on pure living. Uprightness is not popular in our modern age. The masses do not see any reason for all this "self-denial" (Luke 9:23). Why can't people just live their own lives (morally and religiously) without someone telling them how they should dress and talk and where they should go (Judges 17:6; 21:25)? A little idolatry, homosexuality, adultery, fornication and drunkenness never hurt them, did it?
- C. If we could just call a meeting and decide how much lower the standard should be we could make some headway against all these restrictions. This is the age of liberation. We demand our rights! To all who feel this way, I have examined the scriptures closely. There is not one place in the entire Bible that indicates that those who go to hell will be bothered by someone preaching to them about blending in too much with the world. No one will rebuke you for the lifestyle you choose. Think of all the freedom!

IV. **No More Demands On Your Time**

- A. The scriptures are very terse in explaining to us the value of time (Ephesians 5:15-17). If we waste our time, we have wasted the most valuable earthly commodity we have. The Lord taught His disciples

the best use of their time (Matthew 16:24-26). Some of us here have less time than others.

- B. Going to services, preparing to teach a class, visiting the physically and spiritually sick, cleaning the building; these all take time! If you are just too burdened from becoming a Christian because of the time involved, you will have plenty of free time in hell. If you are just too burdened from taking responsibility to serve and work for the Lord in the capacity of teaching the lost and visiting, you will have plenty of free time in hell (Matthew 25:21, 23, 28-30). It will be utopia!

V. ***No More Personal Evangelism***

- A. There is no greater service which the gospel provides than saving men from their sins. In fact, God felt the great commission was so important, He preserved it for us in scripture five times (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; John 4:35; Acts 1:8). We must get the message!
- B. If Christians coming to your door, calling on the phone or writing you letters about living for God and worshiping regularly bugs you, just wait. You may soon be free of them at last. If the fellow at work keeps hounding you about attending the services, repentance and baptism, or being restored to faithfulness and is agitating you, do not worry! From everything I have read about hell (and I think I have read every verse), there will not be one tract passed out in hell and no one will try to get you to change your life when you reach this place of freedom. Won't it be wonderful there?

VI. ***No More Invitations***

- A. The very reason we come together is to do our very best to offer a heartfelt invitation for people to change their lives (Jeremiah 36:2-3). That change can only happen by obedience to the gospel.
- B. Some folks can pretty well handle the preaching, collections, calls to holy living and the personal workers. They can even endure the prayers for their salvation and the hymns about judgment. They have managed to develop a shield that keeps such things from penetrating and have gotten to where they almost do not feel anything. And it would be ideal if they would just do away with extending the invitation.
- C. But for some reason they ask everybody to stand and sing an invitation song while the preacher makes a plea for sinners who have never obeyed the gospel to repent and be converted or for erring Christians to repent. This is hard for some to handle and they do not like it. It makes them fidget and squirm until they can hardly stand it. That is the reason some stay home.

D. Have we got news for you! We have examined the scriptures thoroughly and there is not even a hint that invitations will be extended in hell. Once there, you will not have to think about the repulsiveness of an invitation.

Conclusion. There is just one catch. Once you step across that line from this life to that other place there will never be an opportunity to change your mind. If you think for one moment that someday you just might wish to hear a gospel preacher talk about holy living; if you think there would be a time when you might welcome a phone call from a concerned Christian; if you think you might wish to support the Lord's work; or if you think you might want to stand and sing just one more invitation song, or teach a Bible class or clean the church building -- then it would be wise right now to start thinking very seriously about where you are headed.

Relative to hell we should believe everything God has told us. We should believe its reality because He said it is to be a real place. The God of heaven cannot lie and be true to His own infinite characteristic of perfect honesty (Acts 27:25). It is with the same degree of surety that we can view the horrors of hell as real and awful. These horrors shall be as God told us.

If you are serious about escaping hell, the time to act is now. Repent of your sins and turn to Jesus Christ who is God's Son. God sent Christ into the world to die for our sins. Do not harden your heart or suppose that another day would be more convenient than today. Few people intend to arrive in hell, but many arrive there because they fail to act in the hour of opportunity. Obey the gospel, for we do not want to meet Him unprepared (Hebrews 10:31).