

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### A PLACE CALLED HELL

Luke 16:19-31

#### **Scripture Reading:**

<sup>19</sup>There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: <sup>20</sup>And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, <sup>21</sup>And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup>And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup>And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. <sup>26</sup>And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. <sup>27</sup>Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: <sup>28</sup>For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. <sup>29</sup>Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. <sup>30</sup>And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. <sup>31</sup>And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:19-31).

#### **Introduction:**

**A.** As you may know, for the last two weeks our Bible lesson focused on **A Place Called Heaven** (John 14:1-3). Heaven is the place where: there is no evil, the righteous dwell eternally and God and Christ dwell there eternally.

This Bible lesson focuses on **A Place Called Hell**. It is not a happy or popular topic. It is oftentimes mocked, ridiculed and considered as a false doctrine or non-existent. However, it clearly needs to be preached and taught. As sure as there is a **Heaven**, there is also a **Hell**.

**B.** As Christians we need to sound the alarm that Hell is a real place created for the devil and his angels (Matt 25:41). A person is either a follower of Christ (Heaven Bound) or a follower of Satan (Hell Bound). Knowing this, Christians should be motivated to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Saving Grace because "The love of Christ that constraineth us..." (2 Cor 5:14). Another great motivation is, as Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Cor 5:11).

Some of our friends, loved ones, co-workers and relatives are going to die and go to Hell unless we share the message of salvation and redemption with them.

**C.** "If people can ignore what the Bible calls sin, they can quite logically discount what it says about the reality of Hell". – Billy Graham

#### **D. Bible Verses on Hell**

- “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matt 25:46).
- “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thess 1:9).
- “<sup>4</sup>For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; <sup>9</sup>The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished” (2 Pet 2:4, 9).

#### **I. Hell is a Place that is Real** (vv. 19-20)

In this story of “A rich man ... and a certain beggar (vv. 19-20), we notice two persons: “A certain rich man” (v. 19) and “A certain beggar named Lazarus” (v. 20).

- A. “The **Beggar** died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s Bosom (**Heaven**)” – (v. 22a).
- B. “The **Rich Man** also died and was **Buried** and in **Hell** he lifted up his eyes” (vv. 22b-23).
- C. “The **Rich Man** was condemned to Hell. He was not condemned to Hell because of his wealth. He was condemned for refusing to Believe in Jesus Christ as Savior. He lived and died without Jesus.
- D. The **Beggar (Lazarus)** was saved and went to Heaven. He was not saved because He was poor. He was saved because he trusted in Jesus Christ for the salvation of his soul.
- E. Although it was too late, in the end, the Rich Man died without Christ and finally realized that Hell is a Place that is Real.

#### **Study Question #1:**

In whom or what do people trust for Salvation?

#### **II. Hell is a Place of Torment** (vv. 23-25)

**Torment** – extreme pain of the body and mind.

- A. The Rich Man expressed **Torment** four times in this study (vv. 23, 24, 25, 28).
- B. A person will have all their senses (minds) in Hell with the ability:
  - To see (“seeth Abraham.” v. 23).
  - To speak (“and he cried ...” – v. 24).
  - To hear (“and Abraham said, son ...” – v. 24).
  - To pray (I pray thee therefore” – v. 27).
  - To feel (I am tormented in this flame” – v, 24).

#### **C. Description of Hell – What is it?**

1. “A Lake of Fire” (Rev 20:15)
2. A Bottomless Pit (Rev 20:1)

3. A Place of “Outer Darkness” (Matt 25:30)
4. A Place where they can never repent (Matt 12:32)
5. A Place of Weeping (Matt 8:12)
6. A Place of Everlasting Burnings (Isa 33:14)
7. A Place where they do not want their loved ones to come (Luke 16:28)
8. A Place where “they have no rest day nor night” (Rev 14:11)
9. A Place of an unquenchable Fire (Mark 9:43)

**Thought to Ponder:**

The torment in Hell will never end – It is Eternal.

**D. Those in Hell will “Remember” the events of life (v. 25)**

1. They will remember the sermons and the testimonies of the Saints about Jesus and His Saving Grace. They will also remember each time they rejected Christ.
2. They will remember the Gospel tracts they were given.
3. They will remember the times the Lord convicted them of their need to accept Christ as Savior and they refused Him: delayed accepting Christ – will do it at a later time.
4. Those in Hell will have no one to blame but themselves.
  - Nobody's fault but mine  
Nobody's fault but mine  
And if I die and my soul be lost  
Nobody's fault but mine

**Study Question #2:**

How do you respond when someone makes a comment like “Hell is here on Earth.”

**Thought to Ponder:**

Oftentimes, at the death of a person, someone will say the person is in a better place or is no longer suffering. This is not the case for those dying without Christ. Death is not the end. There is an afterlife – Heaven or Hell. People who depart this life in great suffering and sickness and die without Christ, have gone to a place called Hell where they will be tormented forever. There is no relief, probation nor another chance to accept Christ as Savior.

- “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27).

**III. Hell is a Place of Separation (v. 26)**

The Rich Man was separated from Lazarus and Abraham by a Great Gulf. The Great Gulf is described as “fixed” which means that it will never be taken away.

**A.** The Unbelievers will be eternally separated from God and the Saints – (Family of God – including parents, children, friends, and relatives).

**B.** Biblical Illustrations about Hell

1. The choice made in this life determines a person’s eternal destiny and once death has taken place, that destiny is **Fixed**. There is no passage between Heaven and Hell.
2. Eternal Life – Don’t leave earth without it” – Bumper Sticker

3. “Hell is being lost forever. No hope of being released when the Iron Gate of Hell is once closed upon them, it shall never be unbarred again to give them free exit” – Charles H. Spurgeon.

#### 4. Where Hell Is

- A young man was converted during special evangelistic meetings held in a mining village. Wanting to do something for God, he bought some tracts and was distributing them one day, when he met some former companions. They decided to deride him for his faith in Christ. “Hey! Can you tell me where Hell is?” After a moment’s hesitation, the newly converted man replied, “Yes, at the end of a Christless life.” (Ministry 127)

#### 5. Looking for Loopholes

- Just before the death of actor W. C. Fields, a friend visited Fields’ hospital room and was surprised to find him thumbing through a Bible. When he asked what he was doing with a Bible, Fields replied, "I'm looking for loopholes." There are no loopholes in the Bible; either you accept Christ or spend an eternity in Hell.

### IV. Hell is a Place of Regret (vv. 27-31)

The Rich Man has the same mind in hell as he did on earth. He remembered his unsaved brothers that were still on earth – He did not want them to “come into this place of torment” (v. 28).

- A. The “Five Brethren” (Unsaved) will be in the same predicament as the Rich Man (v. 28). They will remember, regret, and miss out on Heaven because of their sins, unthankfulness towards Christ’s death on the Cross, opportunities to accept Christ as Savior and their indifference to Gospel tracts and testimonies of Soul-Winners. They will also remember the prayers of their parents, loved ones and other Saints, pleading with the unsaved person to become a Christian.
- B. The Rich Man asked Abraham about **sending someone from the dead** to evangelize (witness) to his brothers so that they would repent (vv. 28-29). Abraham told the Rich man that failure to listen to and heed the Word of God is final. If unbelievers will not heed the Bible, they will not believe if a person rose from the dead.
- C. Live by Faith not by Sight – Trust God at His Word for Salvation
  - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).
  - “And they said, **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31).
  - “<sup>9</sup>That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup>For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed (Rom 10:9-11).

- D.** God is not sending anyone from the dead to witness to the unsaved here on earth. God has commanded Christian witnesses – Preachers, Teachers, Evangelists, Missionaries and Church Members (Saints) to do His work.

**Point to Ponder:**

- As Christians, we must refute the false belief that a good, loving, and caring God will not send anyone to Hell. A person chooses Hell when they reject Christ.
  
- Even with all the lost souls going to Hell every day, the Bible states: “Hell and destruction are never full ...” (Prov 27:30). Perhaps, it never gets full because it grows to accommodate the new occupants coming in daily. “Therefore, Hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure ...” (Isa 5:13).

**Conclusion:**

**A.** Hell is a Place that is Real, a Place of Torment, A Place of Separation and A Place of Regret.

**B.** Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus just now,  
Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus, Just now.

**C.** Share the Gospel of Jesus During this COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**

**Memory Verse:**

**“For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2).**

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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**