

LIGHT UP YOUR WORLD
Stories for *Easier Evangelism* (Part 5)
“HELL – Final Stop for the Lost”

INTRO – In our series on easier evangelism, we are examining the hopelessness of the human condition without Christ—All bad news. My prayer is our concern for the unsaved will at least challenge our lack of compassion for the lost. We looked at the three parables Jesus told in Luke 15 on lostness. All are lost and need to be found. All separated by God. See diagram ... Rejoicing results when lost people become found people. Rate your love for people without Christ . . . Last lesson, took in depth look at the human condition of lost people. By nature, and by choice we are sinners. God is not at fault. Mankind's choice to sin has left us with evil, suffering, pain, and death. He has provided a solution. TODAY, we look at the final stopping place for the lost – HELL! A very uncomfortable topic. Jesus said more about hell than anyone in the Bible. He said more about hell than heaven. Yet, only 58% believe in hell! (72% heaven.) Not believing in hell doesn't erase it or cool it.) Look at Heb. 9:26-28. Read Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43; Lk. 16:19-31. Three (3) TRUTHS about hell:

I. THE *FACT* OF HELL – “Is hell a literal place?”

- A. *Common sense dictates* there is a hell. There has to be justice and accountability. What about people like Hitler, etc.? Bundy, Dahmer, ... None good by God's standard.
- B. *Choice demands* there be a hell. Apart from choice, love, even God's love, is meaningless. God gives us free choice. Without hell, heaven would be polluted. Evil must be separated out. Packer quote . . .
- C. *Christ declared* hell was a prepared place (Matt. 25:41; Luke 16:24, 28). Some argue, “I don't believe that a good and loving God will send anyone to hell.” You're right, God doesn't. He prepared hell for the devil and his demons. *God doesn't send people to hell. They send themselves through unbelief and rejection of Christ – both evil and morally good people.* He sent His Son to keep us out of hell! God always respects our freedom to choose (with consequences). What if never heard? Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:19-20.

II. THE *FEATURES* OF HELL – “What is hell like?”

- A. Bible *TERMS* describing hell:
 - 1. “Gehenna” (Mk. 9:47-48) – Jerusalem garbage dump (Hinnom Valley), ever burning and smelling. Hell is an eternal garbage dump! A place of wastefulness. Jer. 7:31-32
 - 2. “bottomless pit/abyss” (Rev. 20:1) – No floor, forever falling, helpless feeling.

- 3. “furnace of fire” (Matt. 13:41-42) – Burning but never consumed.
- 4. “lake of fire” (Rev. 20:14-15) – Bible describes this fire as raging, unquenchable, and everlasting
- 5. “the fiery lake of burning sulphur... the second death” (Rev. 21:8) –
- 6. “darkness” (Matt. 25:29) – not sure how to reconcile the light from fire and darkness.

Some wonder, “Where is hell?” Beneath the earth. At the end of an unbelieving, Christ-rejecting life!

B. Some *TRAITS* – How is hell as a place described? Hell is a place of:

- 1. *Eternal separation* from God, good, and believers (Matt. 13:49; 2 Th. 1:8-9; Lk. 16:23, 26; Rev. 21:6-8). Hell is where God withdraws His presence forever. No grace, no good, no love, no Christians, no hope. Place of complete darkness and endless loneliness (Matt. 13:42).
- 2. *Endless suffering* in torment where there is no relief.
 - Physical torment (Matt. 13:42; Lk. 16:23-25) - misery
 - Emotional and mental agony – “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 13:42, 50 – about 7 times) – everlasting regret as occupants remember: sermons preached, Spirit conviction ignored, invitation rejected, prayers and witness of people overlooked. Place of unending, unanswered prayers (Lk. 16:27). Consciously aware that something is better but unattainable (Lk. 16:19ff).

III. THE *FINALITY* OF HELL – “Will there be another chance?”

- A. Death closes the door of opportunity for salvation and heaven (Heb. 9:27; Matt. 8:10-12). Death is inevitable (unless Jesus comes), but our final destination is our choice. God doesn't want anyone to go to hell (2 Pet. 3:9; Ez. 18:32; 33:11). Hell is real and final. No purgatory. The Lost remain there until GWT (Rev. 20:11-15).
- B. Prayers of others will not enable you to escape.

CONC: Jesus said you are better off blind and maimed than to go to hell (Matt. 5:29). “Is eternity in hell fair and just punishment for sin?” Perfectly! You don't want your loved ones to spend eternity in hell (Lk. 16:27-31). It isn't the fear of hell that saves us, it is knowing Jesus. So, we must go light up our world – and snatch them from the fire (Jude 22-23)