

Studies in Christianity Private Worship #12

S#1.

Contemplating Hell

S#2.

Text : Luke 16: 19-31 ; Luke 13: 23-28

A. Last lesson, we suggested Heaven as a theme for our person worship.

S#3.

1. Heaven is for those who made a commitment to go there and lived it.
 - a. They developed faith and obeyed the gospel.
 - b. They lived for God on the earth. (*It was not just a desire or aspiration.*)
2. We are not told where Heaven is located, just that God dwells there.
3. We questioned what Heaven is like. (Glorious, rich, huge, peaceful, pleasant)
4. We looked at the nature of its inhabitants. (Loving, of high moral character, family)
5. All in Heaven will see God face to face unendingly. (Total love and security)

B. This lesson will look at the other side of the coin ... at Hell.

S#4.

1. Most people will go to Hell.
2. Hell is a place of banishment.
3. A place of punishment
4. There is no hope.

I. Bluntly spoken, contrary to popular opinion, most people will go to Hell.

S#5.

A. We must understand that there is a real place called Hell.

1. People try to deny Hell because they don't accept the word of God.
2. They have reduced Christianity to mere feelings. (**social outlet**)

B. There are at least four views of Hell.

S#6.

1. Naturalism – only the observable, material world exists.
Hell cannot possibly exist. ...
2. The Classical View – Hell is an eternal place of unending torment for the wicked.
3. Annihilation – Hell is real, but not eternal.
The wicked are destroyed there.
4. Universalist – No one, or at least very few ever go to Hell.
It may or may not exist.

C. During the ministry of Jesus, He taught more about Hell than Heaven. S#7.

1. If one does not believe in Hell :
 - a. He does not believe in the inspiration of the scriptures.
 - b. He does not believe that Jesus is God .. i.e. .. speaks only truth.
2. Jesus speaks about the reality of Hell :
 - a. **Matt. 5: 22** – But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.
 - b. **Matt. 5: 29** – If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. S#8.
 - c. **Matt. 23: 33** – You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? S#9.
 - d. **Luke 12: 5** – But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

D. The Lord taught that many will be in Hell and few in Heaven. S# 10.

1. **Matt. 1:13** – Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.
2. There are approximately 8, 000,000,000 people alive on the earth today.
 - a. We are dying at a rate of about 313,111 people each day.
 - b. The average lifespan being 70 yrs, **ALL** now alive will be dead within 100 year.
 - c. Many of these will be in Hell; only few will be saved.
3. All those who are not in Him and not seeking to serve Him will be in Hell.

John 15: 5 – I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. S#11.
4. ONLY those who are in Christ will be saved.
 - a. **John 14: 6** – Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. S#12.
 - b. There are NO exceptions because ALL have sinned. (**Rom. 3: 23**)
5. The Apostles taught this same doctrine.

- a. “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ” (**Rom 3: 23**) and **S#13.**
“the wages of sin is death,” (**Rom 6: 23**) *Thus, everyone needs salvation.*
- b. Speaking of Jesus Peter said, there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. – **Acts 4: 12**
- 4. The scriptures teach that obedience to the gospel, which is the death, burial and resurrection, saves us.
 - a. **I Cor. 15: 1** – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **S#14.**
 - b. Obedience to the gospel includes being baptized as a faith response. **S#15.**
Gal. 3: 27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

II. Hell is a place of banishment.

- A. Every person who has ever lived will be raised to face judgment. **S#17.**
 - 1. **John 5: 28** – Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29** and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.
 - 2. When Jesus comes He will separate the saved from the unforgiven. **S#18.**
Matt. 25: 31– But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.
32 All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; **33** and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.
- B. Those who are NOT IN Christ will be exiled.
 - 1. **II Thes. 1: 7** – ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with **S#19.**
His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **10** when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.

2. There are two groups who will be eternally exiled from God's presence.
 - a. Those who do not know God ... *They have sinned.* **Rom. 6: 23**
 - b. Those who do not obey the gospel ... *These went their own way.*
3. The fate of these exiles is to be in eternal punishment.
 - a. They will receive retribution. (**Vs. 8**)
 - b. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction. (**Vs. 9**)
 - c. They will be kept away from the presence of God. (*And from all He provides.*)

III. Hell is a place of punishment.

S#20.

A. Gehenna is the word most often translated.

S#21.

1. The valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, was the place in ancient times where idolatrous Israelites burned their children alive as sacrifices to Molech and Baal. It was also referred to as Tophet, which means a place of fire. After they returned from exile in Babylon, the Jews reportedly turned the Hinnom valley into their city dump where garbage and anything considered unclean was burned. This included the bodies of executed criminals and dead animals. Fires continually burned there consuming the garbage frequently being cast into it. And there were always worms feeding on any unburned remains. (Today the valley of Hinnom is nothing like this. In modern times it was transformed into a garden.)
2. The symbolism here is so great it cannot go unnoticed.
 - a. The unredeemed person suffers the penalty for his sins. **Rom. 6: 23**
 - b. He is put in a place reserved for things of no value.
 - c. The destiny of the lost is a place where the fire never goes out.

B. What did Jesus say about Hell.

S#22.

1. It is a place to be feared.

Matt. 10: 28 – Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
2. He described it as a place of torment.

Luke 16:23 – In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.
3. Jesus referred to Hell as a place of destruction.

Matt. 7: 13 – Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.
4. Jesus often refers to Hell as a place of fire. –
 - a. **Matt. 7: 19** ... Those unforgiven will be burned like unproductive trees.

S#23.

- b. **Matt. 13: 39** – and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. **S#24.**
40 So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire,
 so shall it be at the end of the age. ... **42** will throw them
 into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping
 and gnashing of teeth.

C. Jesus warns Christians about the imperative of remaining faithful.

1. **John 15: 6** – If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. **S#25.**
2. To the inactive Christian Jesus warns:
 - a. **Matt. 25: 29** – For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. **30** Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (*refers to judgment not earthly ...*) **S#26.**
 - b. We can be banished from the presence of God for just going through the motions.

IV. There is NO hope for those in Hell. **S#27.**

A. We can tolerate most things IF we can see the end, but Hell never ends.

1. Heaven is an IN or OUT choice. Those who are out are out eternally.
2. People in Hell can see out, but they can never get out.
Luke 16: 23 – In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. **S#28.**
Luke 16: 26 – And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'
3. Those who are banished are banished for eternity.
II Thes. 1:9 – These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **S#29.**

B. The false doctrine of purgatory was invented to capitalize on men's fear. **S#30.**

1. The scriptures are clear, every person stands before God as an individual.
2. *God cannot be bribed or in any way placated by a third party.* **S#31.**

C. Up unto their last heartbeat everyone has a choice. What will you choose?

- D.** C. S. Lewis said, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in hell choose it. Without that self-choice, there could be no hell." **S#32.**
S#34. at end

Lesson Text :**Luke 16: 19-31**

19 Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. 20 "And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. 22 "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "And he cried out and said, ' Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' 25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' 27 "And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house — 28 for I have five brothers — in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30 "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Luke 13: 23-28

23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, 24 " Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 "Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ' Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, ' I do not know where you are from.' 26 "Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; 27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.' 28 " In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.