

Studies in Christianity Private Worship #13

S#1.

The Christian Response to Hell

S#2.

Text : **Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43 ; Mark 9: 42-48**

A. Talking about Hell is both unpleasant and unpopular.

1. Jesus taught more about Hell than about Heaven.

- a. **Matt. 13: 40** – So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. **41** The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, **42** and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place here will be weeping and **gnashing** of teeth.

S#3.

b. The preaching of Jesus was a warning, not scare tactics.

- 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. **14** For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

S#4.

2. Preaching about Hell is required of all faithful preachers.

a. The only way to avoid guilt is to preach the “whole counsel o God.”

- Acts 20:26** – Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. **27** "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

S#5.

b. The only way to prepare the brethren is to preach the word.

- II Tim. 3: 16** – All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. **4: 1** I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

S#6.

B. Last week we opened a discussion of Hell wherein thus far we observed : S#7.

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

C. Lord willing, this lesson will deal with several responses to Hell.**S#8.**

1. It should elicit intense praise and gratitude.
2. Hell is an incentive to abstain from sin
3. Realize all sin must be dealt with radically.
4. Hell should move us to evangelism

I. Hell should elicit intense praise and gratitude for Jesus.**S#9.****A. YOU deserve to be in Hell, but Jesus****S#10.**

1. You have earned a death sentence.
 - a. **Rom. 3: 23** – For there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - b. **Rom. 6:23** – For the wages of sin is death,

2. Jesus paid the penalty for our rebellion.

I John 4:9 – God is love. **9** By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

S#11.**B. Jesus freely gave Himself to save us.**

1. God sent Jesus for the purpose of dying in our stead.

John 3: 16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
2. Jesus came to earth knowing that He was coming to die.

Mark 10: 45 – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

S#12.**C. There was NO other way for man to have the opportunity to be saved..**

1. Remember the prayer of Jesus in the garden?
 - a. Jesus asked for another way.
 - b. **Mark 14: 35** – And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. **36** And He was saying, " Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."
2. Aside from His death, Jesus made significant sacrifice when He came.
 - a. **Phil. 2: 5** – Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found

S#13.**S#14.**

in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- b. The sacrifice of Jesus is ongoing; He returned to Heaven in a body to mediate.

D. Christians enjoy something we did deserve and don't deserve.

II. The knowledge of Hell is an incentive to abstain from sin.

S#15.

A. Jesus taught a lot about Hell,

1. **Matt. 7: 13** ... Hell is a place with a wide gate and many people.
2. **Matt. 7: 13** ... Hell is a place of destruction.
3. **Luke 12: 5** ... Hell is a place to be feared. (*God instructs fear.*)

B. Jesus taught that Hell is a terrible place of suffering.

1. **Luke 16** ... The rich man woke up in torment.
2. **Matt. 18: 9** ... It is so bad one should pluck his eye out to avoid it.
3. **Matt. 7: 19** ... Not obedient thrown in a fire.
4. **John 15** ... Unproductive branches are burned.

C. Sin separates us from God.

1. **Rom. 6:23** ... The wages of sin is death, i.e., separation from God,
2. Notice how that separation transpires.

II Thes 1: 7 – ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His **S#16.**
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,...

- a. They go to a place of destruction.
- b. The destruction continues eternally.
3. Once rejected one can never be reunited with God.

- a. **Luke 16** ... Gigantic divide to prevent crossovers.
- b. **Jude 6** – And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned **S#17.**
their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, **7** just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

D. Knowing Hell exists and the unforgiven go there, is terrifying motivation.

III. Hell should cause us to realize all sin must be dealt with radically.**S#18.****A. Mark 9: 42 ... Jesus is illustrating the gravity of causing sin**

1. Vs - **35**... Jesus is talking to His disciples. (*Not the unconverted*)
2. Vs- **42** .. Better for them to drown than to cause a Christian to stumble. (*millstone*)

B. Must be willing to cut off sin no matter what it takes. .. own disciples

1. Hyperbole ... Even if it involves mutilating one's body.
2. Castrating child molesters is sometimes administered the criminal justice system.

C. Repentance is a matter of life and death.**S#19.**

1. Whatever we have to do to cut off, to prevent sin is appropriate, **sin condemns**
2. Repentance was the theme of Messianic preaching,
 - a. **Matt. 3: 2** – Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - b. **Matt. 4: 17** – Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

D. The one who is saved must hate sin. (*Child molester chose castration.*)**IV. Being aware of Hell should motivate us to evangelism.****S#20.****A. Remember our parable in Luke 16.**

1. The rich man requested that Lazarus be sent to warn his brothers.
 - a. God refused.
 - b. He said they should obey the written word. (*Moses & prophets*)
2. The rich man appealed that they would listen to one who was risen.
 - a. God said the rich man was in error.
 - b. **Luke 16: 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.'
 - c. The rich man argued that his brothers would listen to one risen. –
3. God responded that the word is sufficient to convert. (*Moses & prophets*)
 - a. **Eph. 2: 8** – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - b. **Rom 10: 17** – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

S#21.**S#22.**

B. Do you have as much concern for your kinsmen as did the rich man?

1. God give us a greater opportunity to reach our kinsfolk than others have.
2. We have long-term sustained contact with them.

C. The Apostle Paul prayed for and reached out to his kinsmen.

1. **Rom. 9: 1** – I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, **2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, **4** who are Israelites, **S#23.**
2. Do we care as much about our relatives as the rich man or as Paul.

D. We used to sing a song that pretty much sums it up for many. **S#24.**

VERSE 1

WHEN IN THE BETTER LAND, BEFORE THE BAR WE STAND
 HOW DEEPLY GRIEVED OUR SOULS WILL BE
 IF ANY LOST ONE THERE, SHOULD CRY IN DEEP DESPAIR
 YOU NEVER MENTIONED HIM TO ME

VERSE 2

O LET US SPREAD THE WORD, WHERE-EER IT MAY BE HEARD
 HELP GROPING SOULS THE LIGHT TO SEE
 THAT YONDER NONE MAY SAY, YOU SHOWED ME NOT THE WAY
 YOU NEVER MENTIONED HIM TO ME

VERSE 3

A FEW SWEET WORDS MAY GUIDE, A LOST ONE TO HIS SIDE
 OR TURN SAD EYES ON CALVARY
 SO WORK AS DAYS GO BY, THAT YONDER NONE MAY CRY
 YOU NEVER MENTIONED HIM TO ME **S#25.**

CHORUS

YOU NEVER MENTIONED HIM TO ME
 NOR HELP ME THE LIGHT TO SEE
 YOU MET ME DAY BY DAY AND KNEW I WAS A-STRAY
 YET NEVER MENTIONED HIM TO ME

Lesson Text :**Matthew 13: 24-30 ; 36-43**

24 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, " The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 "But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. 26 "But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. 27 "The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 "And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' 29 "But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, " Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37 And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, 38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. 40 "So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 41 " The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 " Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Mark 9: 42-48

42 " Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea. 43 " If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, 44 [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] 45 "If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, 46 [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] 47 " If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell, 48 where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.