

Saturday, September 21, 2019

# Eternity - Too Important to be Wrong!

*“God’s love is magnified in heaven and God’s justice is manifest in hell”*

*“True gospel preaching always changes the heart. It either awakens it or hardens it”*

*Pastor Chan Kilgore*

The question is not, “Do you want to go to heaven?”

The question is, “Do you want God?”

Paul Washer

## 1. The Question asked by Jesus

Question Jesus asked to the Scribes and Pharisees after condemning their actions

**Matthew 23:33 – “How can ye escape the damnation of hell?”**

Gehenna – Refers to the valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem, a garbage dump where fires constantly burned.

Place in the OT where apostate Jews sacrificed infants to the false god, Molech

## 2. The Seriousness emphasized by Jesus

Mark 9:43-48

<sup>43</sup>And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: <sup>44</sup>Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

<sup>45</sup>And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: <sup>46</sup>Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. <sup>47</sup>And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: <sup>48</sup>Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

*Some preachers today are more concerned about giving you  
“your best life now” than they are concerned about your  
eternal destiny.*

### Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God

By: Jonathan Edwards

The lost are always exposed to sudden unexpected judgment. As the lost walk in slippery places every moment liable to fall, he cannot foresee one moment whether he shall stand or fall the next; and when he does fall, he falls at once without warning.

1. There is no lacking of power in God to cast the lost into Hell at any moment

2. The lost deserve to be cast into Hell and divine justice never stands in the way, it makes no objection against God using His power at any moment to punish the wicked
3. The lost are already under a sentence of condemnation to Hell (John 3:18)
4. The lost are now the objects of that same anger and wrath of God, that is expressed in the torments of Hell
5. The devil and his demons stand ready to fall upon the lost, and seize them as their own, at what moment God shall permit them
6. There are in the souls of wicked men those hellish principles reigning, that would presently kindle and flame out into Hell fire, if it were not for God’s restraints
7. It is no security to the lost for one moment, that there are no visible means of death at hand
8. God has not laid Himself under any obligation, by any promise, to keep any lost man out of Hell one moment

## 3. The Hell Described by Jesus:

Luke 12:2-5

<sup>2</sup>For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. <sup>3</sup>Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

<sup>4</sup>And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. <sup>5</sup>**But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.**

- A. A Place that is immediate - Luke 16:22, 23
- B. A Place of torments - Luke 16: 23, 24
- C. A Place with no relief - Luke 16:24-26
- D. A place that thirst will not be quenched - Luke 16:24
- E. A place unquenchable fire - Luke 16:24b; Matthew 13:42; 25:41
- F. A place of remembrance – Luke 16:25
- G. A place of no escape for all eternity – Luke 16:26; Matthew 25:46
- H. A place of outer darkness – Matthew 8:12
- I. A place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth – Matthew 8:12

John 3:36 - He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

## Probing Questions:

### 1. Is there evidence in your life that you are an authentic Christian?

- So much carnality (worldliness) among professing believers
- Unchanged by the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Convinced about their salvation solely because one time in their life they raised a hand in church or repeated a prayer or was baptized

### Two things that are diametrically opposed to one another:

Friendship between the gospel and the world

To receive the gospel is to reject the world

**To receive one is to reject the other!**

It is so important to get this!

***A mere profession of faith alone is no sound evidence of salvation.***

(Paul Washer)

### 2. Do you want God?

*According to Pastor John Piper –*

***“The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God”***

The question is not, “Do you want to go to heaven?”

The question is, “Do you want God?”

Paul Washer

- ⇒ People want to be saved from the penalty of sin, but not from the presence or power of sin
- ⇒ People want heaven, but do they want God?

### 3. Do you really, truly understand the Gospel?

#### A. The Nature of God

- ⇒ Love
- ⇒ Holy
- ⇒ Righteous and just

#### B. The Nature of man and his fallenness

⇒ Sinful – Romans 3:23

⇒ Rebellious

⇒ **Totally Depravity:** A complete inability to produce any good works that could merit salvation based upon your own strength or merit.

Romans 3:10-12 - “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one”

#### C. The Response of God to man’s fallenness

⇒ John 3:16

⇒ Romans 5:8

#### D. The Responsibility of man to God’s provision

##### 1- Placing Trust in Jesus

**Taken from Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary**

⇒ **Believe:** “To believe,” also “to be persuaded of,” and hence, “to place confidence in, to trust,” signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence.

⇒ **Faith:** “Firm persuasion,” a conviction based upon hearing

**Has there been a time in your life when you personally placed your trust in the death of Christ to be the payment for your sin?**

##### 2- Renouncing any other hope

Placing your faith in Christ means that you utterly renounce any other hope of being counted righteous before God.

**Does your hope of heaven rest in anything other than Jesus?**

“To receive Christ truly is to throw off every other hope in everything but Christ alone.”

Paul Washer

##### 3- Repentance

**Repentance is a change of mind about sin and the person of Jesus Christ**

It is turning away from sin, hating it, and resolving by God’s strength to forsake it, even as we turn in faith to Christ and place our trust in Him.

## **Invitation:**

Be stronger than your excuses!

Great things never came from comfort zones

**Christian** –

When was the last time you lead a person to Christ?

When was the last time you tried?