

Sermon Outlines

Heaven or Hell For Eternity

Reading

Luke 16:19-31

Introduction

Today it is generally found that there is a looseness of spirituality and lack of response from our preaching. Why is this? Some will say:

- a) People are just not interested, and to an extent that is true.
- b) We are living in the Laodicean period, and to an extent that is true.
 - i) But is it possible that as believers, we have lost the visions of:
 1. One person committing suicide every 40 seconds?
 2. Individuals dying and being cast into Hell for all eternity?
 3. That we are so earth minded, eternity is rather abstract?

What a river of blessing would flow if we preached as Jonathan Edwards in his famous sermon, "Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God". It is reported that he was weak, thin, and suffered from failing eyesight, however I can only find one article which states this and they give no references to support this matter. One truth is sure, such was the power of God flowing through him that there were those who hung onto the pews and pillars, some cried, wanting him to stop preaching, and others ran up to the front saying, "Save me, Save me".

Today many are reluctant to preach that there is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun, that it is turn or burn, that it is Heaven or Hell for eternity. Let me point out what they do know and do not know.

- a) They know that if they preach with such plainness they will:
 - i) Lose their financial and other benefits
 - ii) Lose their congregations
- b) They do not know that the scriptures prophesied and spoke about such false preachers.
 - i) According to the apostle Paul, they preach another gospel which is not another but a perversion of the gospel of Christ, and deserves to be accursed (Gal. 1:8-9).
 - ii) That they are the ones the Spirit spoke of when He spoke about their congregations as having itching ears and want to only speak about God's love and not His wrath.

What Is Hell Like?

Observations:

1) Hell:

- a) Hell was never created for man but for the angels who rebelled (Matt. 25:41).
- b) Therefore, it is not the will of God that any should perish and be banished from Him for all eternity.
- c) People will be banished into hell by their own choice of rejecting the Saviour.

2) Those in Hell have:

- a) The ability to hear, and what will they hear?
 - i) The non activity of God in their need, for they in life rejected the gospel (Lk. 16:19-31)
 - ii) The wail of hopelessness and darkness.
 1. When the Titanic sank and thousands were thrown into the icy waters, at first there were screams, and as the minutes passed they became fainter and fainter until there was absolute silence except for the lapping of the waves. In those last minutes of life they screamed for help, but none came. What are the terrified screams of those in Hell be when they realize it's "too late, all hope gone forever".

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- b) The ability to feel.
 - i) Every individual in Hell will have a body which will never die and in which there is no respite for pain.
 - 1. The pain of known opportunity spurned.
 - 2. The pain of known prayers disregarded.
 - 3. The pain of bodily suffering. The man in hell cried, "I am tormented in this flame" (Lk. 16:24, 25, 28).
- c) The nagging fierceness of memory.
 - i) Those in Hell will recall:
 - 1. The last gospel meeting
 - 2. A family member pleading with them
 - 3. The last gospel message
 - 4. A gospel song
 - 5. It will all be remembered
- d) The ability to weep and cry (Lk. 16:24)
 - i) The man cried as he never cried before, but those tears would never be wiped, no soothing arm to comfort, no words of hope to lighten the burden and pain.
 - ii) He cries for mercy but not from repentance. We never read of any repenting in hell!
- e) When an unsaved person dies they go from:
 - i) The world of shadows to the world of reality
 - ii) Laughing to grief
 - iii) Opportunity to no hope
 - iv) Joy to sorrow
 - v) Anesthetics to no pain killers

Conclusion

Since none of us knows when we shall die and enter the other world, surely it is wise to:

- a) Prepare for the quickest journey we shall ever make.
- b) Know for sure where we are going.
- c) Find out, "How can I escape the torments of hell for eternity?"
 - i) The acknowledgment of personal sinfulness and guilt
 - ii) The acknowledgment of personal helplessness
 - iii) The acceptance of Christ as the only Saviour

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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