

WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

Luke 16:22-23 {27-28} – {22} *“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels unto Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; {23} And in Hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. {27} Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house {28} For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.”*

I have found there to be a great indifference concerning the existence of Hell. We live in a society that takes the could-care-less and I-don’t-care attitude. How sad that so many people only care about those things that affect them personally and right now. When it comes to eternity, most people are characterized by ignorance and indifference.

This attitude regarding Hell is the direct result of false teaching and false concepts about its reality. From the church pulpit, to the comic page and the everyday casual reference to Hell, this world has been taught either that Hell doesn’t exist, or doesn’t matter. We must realize that Hell is a real place, a place where all those that neglect God’s one way of salvation will spend eternity. Ignorance does not remove the reality of the existence of Hell.

The Bible says in *Hebrews 9:27*, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* From this verse we are able to see that death is sure, and eternity is forever. When life begins at conception, that individual will spend eternity in a place called Hell or a place called Heaven.

There are many ways being taught by religious organizations about how to prepare for eternity. But, there is only one way according to God’s Word. In *John 14:6* Jesus said - *“I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* The word “THE” is singular and means just one. Therefore, salvation is not dependent on what a religion teaches, but what Jesus Christ says in His Word.

Baptists have often been accused of saying only they go to Heaven. That statement is not true. Religion within itself does not save anyone. *Matthew 7:21-23* tells us that many who claim to be a child of God will spend eternity in Hell because they were trusting their deeds or religion rather than the finished work of Christ that was done on the cross of Calvary. {21} *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me ye that work iniquity.*

Hebrews 9:12 establishes the fact that it is the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and that alone which saves a person from their sin. According to *Titus 3:5*, salvation is not by any works done by man, but by the mercy and grace of God. Man can make many wrong choices and poor decisions in this life, and perhaps be able to recover later on. But, if a person neglects the salvation provided by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, they will spend an eternity regretting it in Hell.

Take a look at *Luke 16:19-31*. In these verses we find two people who died. One went to Heaven and the other went to Hell. One was rich and one was poor. One would be considered a failure and the other considered a success by the world's standards. One spent a lifetime accumulating "stuff" to enjoy in this life while the other spent time preparing to enjoy the life of eternity. You that are reading this article are doing the same thing, either living for time or preparing for eternity. Which one is it?

Now take special note of *Luke 16:30*. This is a message proclaimed from Hell by a man who became concerned about his family that was still alive. All of a sudden he woke up to realize that Hell was a real place for him, and he did not wish for his family to come where he was. Listen to the message of salvation this lost man in hell presented, "*And he said, Nay father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*" This is a lost man who neglected the salvation of Jesus Christ, who is now burning in hell, wanted someone to go back into time and preach the message of salvation to his family? The message he wanted to send to his brothers was "*repent*". There is not a mention of works of any kind, but simply a repentance of sin and faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me ask you, "If you died today, where will you spend eternity? It will either be Heaven or Hell. You may be religious, may be sincere, you may be baptized, you may have your name on a church roll, and the list goes on. But, if you don't have a personal experience of salvation where you repented of your sins toward God, and by faith trusted in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, you are still lost in your sins and headed for a place called Hell which was prepared for the devil and his angels. *John 3:3* says - ". . . *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" Please do not wait until it is too late, because at death your eternal home is established and the offer of salvation has ended.