

Lesson # 4 -- Deliverance From Hell

Introduction

- A. The warnings and promises of the Bible are not to be taken lightly.
- B. The subject of Hell is a most serious truth of profound personal consequences.
 - 1. Each person has been created and is sustained by God so he will live forever.
 - 2. As sinners all of us deserve the judgment of Hell.
 - 3. Those who do not repent, believe the gospel and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will live forever under the judgment of God in Hell and eventually the Lake of Fire.
- C. One reason why the gospel is called the "good news" is because it is the message that there is a deliverance from Hell for all who will receive the free gift of salvation.
- D. The theme of this lesson:

For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad, so that we need not to speak any thing. For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the Living and True God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

I. The Warnings Regarding Hell.

(Among the many principles derived from the Biblical message regarding Hell there are two that stand out.)

- A. Our relationship to Jesus Christ determines our relationship to Heaven or Hell.
 - 1. The Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat, I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink, I was a stranger, and ye took Me in, naked, and ye clothed Me, I was sick and ye visited Me, I was in prison and ye came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered and fed Thee? or thirsty and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger

and took Thee in? or naked and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels. For I was an hungered and ye gave Me no meat, I was thirsty and ye gave Me no drink. I was a stranger and ye took Me not in, naked, and ye clothed Me not, sick, and in prison, and ye visited Me not. Then shall they also answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto Thee? Then shall He answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

2. Observations:

- a. This passage, like so many in the Bible, emphasizes the truth that our daily life is an evidence of faith or unbelief. (James 2:17)
- b. That which separated those of Heaven from those of Hell was a totally different perspective of life. For those of Heaven life was rooted in their faith and love in Jesus Christ. For those of Hell their life was rooted in self-interest. Nothing shows the result of faith or unbelief more clearly.
- c. Hell was prepared for Satan and his angels. Those who choose to follow the example of Satan will spend eternity with him.
- d. All who choose to live in unbelief and for self will be separated eternally from God and suffer forever under the wrath of God.

B. We are urged to be drastic and desperate in our attempt to escape Hell.

1. The Scripture: Mark 9:43-48

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, where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 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, where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. 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, where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched.

2. The observations:

- a. The Lord Jesus is using a human argument here to teach the lesson. The key to freedom from sin is not the removal of the hand, foot or eye - it is the heart. Here He is saying, "Be desperate and drastic in making sure the cause of Hell is removed, and your heart has been renewed".

- b. The description of Hell in this passage reminds us that the punishment there will be internal as well as external - it will involve the total person.

II. The Illustration regarding Hell.

A. The Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table, moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And in Hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments and seeth Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things and likewise Lazarus evil things, but now he is comforted and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot, neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house. For I have five brethren, that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham, but if one when unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

B. The observations;

1. The existence in Hell as "torment" and "separation" is clearly taught in this passage.
2. The rich man himself testifies to at least one truth that is necessary to escape Hell - repentance.
3. It is noteworthy that the rich man is not filled with criticism of God. His concern is for his brothers.
4. The passage also reminds us that not even a great miracle will cause a non-Christian to believe - if he rejects the Word of God.

III. The Explanation Regarding Hell.

A. The Biblical characterization of Hell.

Matthew 5:22 - judgment, Hell fire
 Matthew 5:29,30 - cast into Hell
 Matthew 7:19 - cast into the fire
 Matthew 7:23 - depart from Me

Matthew 8:12 - weeping and gnashing of teeth
 Matthew 10:28 - destroy both soul and body in Hell
 Matthew 13:42,50 - wailing and gnashing of teeth
 Matthew 18:8 - everlasting fire
 Matthew 18:9 - Hell fire
 Matthew 22:13 - weeping and gnashing of teeth
 Matthew 23:33 - damnation of Hell
 Matthew 25:30 - weeping and gnashing of teeth
 Matthew 25:41 - everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels
 Matthew 25:46 - everlasting punishment
 Mark 9:43 - go into Hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched
 Mark 9:48 - where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched
 Romans 2:8,9 - indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish
 II Thessalonians 1:8 - in flaming fire taking vengeance
 II Thessalonians 1:9 - punished with everlasting destruction
 II Peter 2:17 - the mist of darkness
 Jude 7 - the vengeance of eternal fire
 Jude 13 - the blackness of darkness forever
 Revelation 14:10 - tormented with fire and brimstone
 Revelation 14:11 - the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever

B. The relationship between works and judgment in Hell.

1. The Scripture.

Then began He to upbraid the cities wherein most of His mighty works were done, because they repented not. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. Matthew 11:20-22

Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers. Therefore, ye shall receive the greater damnation. Matthew 23:14

And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it and death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:11-15

2. Observations:

- a. One cannot escape the message of the Bible - Hell is a place of terrible judgment. It is a place where the total person will be involved in the most serious punishment for ever and for ever.
- b. There is a righteous judgment ahead in which all right and wrong will be justly evaluated and the appropriate response given. The morality of one's daily life has eternal consequences.

IV. The Message of Deliverance From Hell.

A. The basis of this deliverance: the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

1. The Scripture:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Romans 5:8,9

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom. 8:1

And to wait for His Son from Heaven, Whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. I Thess. 1:10

I am He that liveth, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of Hell and death. Revelation 1:18

2. The explanation:

a. The Lord Jesus was born into our human race to live and die as our Substitute.

b. In His death He suffered the penalty of our sin. He died our death. He endured the judgment of our Hell. He paid the price that we could not pay. This is the reason He was separated from His Father on the cross and cried out, "My God, My God, who hast Thou forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46

B. The exhortations related to this deliverance: repent, believe the gospel, and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

1. The Scripture:

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. John 1:12

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

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. John 3:36

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9,10

2. The explanation.

- a. When one repents, believes the gospel and receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior that person is given all the provision of the atonement. (Romans 8:32; Ephesians 1:6,7; Colossians 2:10)
- b. In the moment of believing that person is "born again" (John 3:3,5), spiritually "washed" from his sin (I Cor. 6:11), given spiritual "life" (John 10:28,29), and made "complete" in Jesus Christ (Col. 2:10-15).

V. The Promises Related to this Deliverance from Hell.

A. The Scripture:

And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. John 10:28

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from Heaven, if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened, not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life . . . Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord . . . We are confident, I say and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. II Cor. 5:1-8

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. I John 5:13

And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people and God Himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:3,4

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. And they shall see His face and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:3-5

B. The explanation:

1. It is God's will that every believer have the assurance of eternal life and the daily comfort of knowing we shall spend eternity in Heaven. We do not have to guess about this.
2. It is important to understand that these promises are based upon God's love for us and the work of Jesus Christ - not our merit. Salvation is a gift and it is freely given to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Conclusion

Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If you have then you have been delivered from Hell. Believe God's Word, thank Him daily, and live in the glad anticipation of meeting Him in Heaven.