

Blue Ridge Brandmarks

“...I bear on my body the brandmarks of Jesus” - Gal. 6:17

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The Reality of Hell

In Matthew 25:31-46 the Bible teaches that at the final judgment while the righteous will enter heaven to enjoy everlasting life, the wicked will go into eternal punishment. The thought of everlasting suffering is repulsive to many. No doubt this aversion lies at the bottom of much of the indifference to what the Bible teaches about hell.

Hell, despite the denials of many, is real. Sin demands it. Sin is a violation of the law of God (1 John 3:4). If there were no punishment for sin, then there could be no law for law without penalty is null and void. If there is no law, there would be no sin. That would make the death of Jesus useless because if there is no sin there is no responsibility to save anyone from it.

The reality of life after death also demands the reality of hell. Jesus taught, in Matthew 22:23-33, that there was life after physical death. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31, two distinct destinies are presented

comfort for the righteous but punishment for the wicked depending on whether or not one serves God while living on earth.

Hell was not originally prepared for man. It was prepared for Satan and his angels (Matt. 25:41). Jude 6 states that fallen angels are placed in chains awaiting judgment. Yet, when men and women join the devil in his work and live in servitude to him, they must suffer the same fate that will befall him.

Hell Is Not Contrary To The Nature of God

Many people find it difficult to accept the reality of hell because they cannot understand or believe that a loving, merciful and forgiving God could create such a place and then place people in it eternally. If no punishment were given for violation of His law, then God would not be just. Being a just God, He will reward the righteous and punish the wicked. Hell is to punish the wicked.

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What Hell Is Like

Hell is eternal. It is described that way in Matthew 25:46. In Romans 16:26 God is said to be eternal. The Holy Spirit, in Hebrews 9:14, is also described as eternal. The same Greek word is used in all three passages. The word means "eternal, everlasting, without end, never to cease." Hell and the punishment meted out there will last as long as God forever.

from their torment day or night. Hell is a place where there is no hope. The punishment is everlasting (Matt. 25:46) with no chance of pardon or parole.

Who Will Go There

As already noted, Satan and his angels will be there (Matt. 25:41). Revelation 21:8 says the "*cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all*

SINNERS WHO CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN THEIR SIN WILL BE FOUND IN HELL

Hell is a place of darkness. Jude 13 speaks of "*the blackness of darkness*" to which false teachers will be confined forever. God is light (1 John 1:5) and the Father of lights (Jas. 1;17). Hell is described as darkness because it is the place farthest removed from God.

Hell is a place of fire. Matthew 13:42 speaks of it as a furnace of fire. Matthew 25:41 calls it an everlasting fire. Mark 9:44-45 says the fire is never quenched. Revelation 21:8 refers to it as the lake of fire. There will be no relief from its fires because Revelation 14:11 says the smoke from the fires of torment ascends forever and ever.

There is no rest there. Revelation 14:11 says the wicked will have no rest

liars" will be there. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 says that those who do not know God and those who will not obey the gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction. In short, all sinners who choose to remain in their sin will be found in hell.

Why People Will Go There

People will not be in hell because God wants them to be there. He desires that all be saved (1 Tim. 2:1-4). They will not be there because God cannot save them. God is all-powerful and the gospel, His power to save (Rom. 1:16), can save to the uttermost. God sent His Son into the world so that all might have salvation (John 3:16) and He has extended His invitation to all who would come

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to Him (Matt. 11:28-30). If a person ends up in hell, he is lost by his own free choice. He has no one to blame but himself. Many see no need to be interested in spiritual things and are indifferent to the pleas of the gospel. Others refuse to obey the gospel or submit to the will of God. Some refuse to believe. Others just love sin more than righteousness. Some, though once

obedient, become unfaithful in service. Many put off obeying until it is too late.

Conclusion

Hell is real. The suffering of it is waiting for the sinful. You can escape the torments found there by giving obedience to Christ now. He will wash away the guilt of your sins and grant you hope of a life of eternal bliss in His presence.

◀Gene Taylor▶

A Habit is a Chain

Ned was watching grandpa put on his shoes.

"Why do you turn 'em over to shake 'em before you put 'em on?" he asked.

"Did I?" said grandpa.

"Why yes, you did; but I didn't see anything come out. I have to shake the sand out of my shoes 'most every morning."

Grandpa laughed. "I didn't notice that I shook my shoes, Ned; but I got in the habit of shaking my shoes every time before putting them on when I was in India."

"Why did you do it there?"

"To shake out the scorpions or centipedes or other vermin that might be hidden in them."

"But you don't need to do it here, for we don't have such things."

"I know; but I formed the habit and now I do it without thinking."

"Habit is a strange thing, isn't it?" said Ned.

"It's a very strong thing," said grandpa. "Remember that, my boy. A habit is a chain that grows stronger every day, and it seems as if a bad habit grows stronger than a good one. If you want to have good habits when you are old, form them while you are young."

NOVEMBER 2011 DUTY ROSTER

Weekday	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED	SUN	WED
Date	11/2	11/6	11/9	11/13	11/16	11/20	11/23	11/27	11/30
Opening Prayer		James M.		Jimmy F.		Alan M.		Larry P.	
Morning Message		John M.		Larry P.		Don H.		Jerry D.	
Announcements	Larry P.	Bill A.	Leo R.	Brad F.	John M.	Leo R.	Leo R.	John M.	Randy F.
Leading Songs	Randy F.	Alan M.	Brent P.	John M.	Matt M.	Larry P.	Alan M.	Bill A.	Eric B.
First Prayer	David T.	Randy F.	Eric B.	Brent P.	Tim P.	Ed M.	Jonathan L.	Matt M.	Jimmy F.
Lead at Lord's Table & Contribution		Eric B.		Jerry D.		John M.		Don H.	
Assist		Leo R.		David T.		Bill A.		Alan M.	
Assist		Matt M.		Don H.		Randy F.		James M.	
Assist		David T.		Jonathan L.		Jeremy P.		Ed M.	
Read Scripture		Jerry D.		Ed M.		Jimmy F.		Tim P.	
Preaching		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.		Brent P.	
Wed. Exhortation	Eric B.		Don H.		Jonathan L.		Larry P.		Matt M.
Closing Prayer	Jonathan L.	Ed M.	Jeremy P.	Bill A.	Brent P.	Jerry D.	David T.	Kevin H.	James M.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday

9:15 - Morning Message
 10:00 - Bible classes for all ages
 11:00 - Worship

Wednesday

7:30 - Bible Classes for all ages

Elders:

Jim Fields, Alan Moeller & Leo Rodrigue

Deacons:

Eric Bridge & John Malloy

Evangelist:

Brent Paschall

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 class material at

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