n Hell In Spite Of The Mercy Of God!

(Lk.16:19-31)

Intro: Probably this is the most used passage in all of the word of God when dealing with the subject of Hell. One possible reason is because the is an actual account of a man who was no doubt exposed to the mercy of God. But in spite of that he died and went to hell! The passage before us this morning tells us about a place called Hell. Now, I know that the very idea of Hell is mocked and ridiculed by many people in our modern world. However, I still believe the Bible, and the Bible is clear in its teaching that there is a place called Hell. Even though the Bible has much to say about Hell, the doctrine is still ridiculed by many. The idea of Hell is usually attacked along three lines of thought.

1. **Rationalism**: The rationalist says, "There is no God, therefore there can be no Hell." Charles Darwin said, "This (referring to Hell) is a damnable doctrine." But I say, "Let God be true and every man a liar!"

2. **Ridicule**: those who ridicule the doctrine of Hell say, "There may be a God, but it is silly to speculate about millions of disembodied spirits frying in a lake of fire somewhere." Or, "This is the twenty-first century! Wake up!" Robert Ingersoll, a famous atheist of the early part of the twentieth century said, "The idea of Hell was born of revenge and brutality on the one side, and cowardice on the other. I have no respect for any man who preaches it! I dislike the doctrine, I hate it, I despise it, I defy this doctrine!" But I say, "Let God be true and every man a liar!"

3. **Religion**: The religionist says, "There is a God, but He is a God of love and therefore He would not or could not send anyone to Hell." This is the position of all the cults and of the liberals.

**Christian Science**: "Hell is an error of the mortal mind."

**Jehovah's Witnesses**: "The wicked will be annihilated."

**Mormonism**: "All will eventually be saved, and will not suffer eternal punishment." **Seventh-Day Adventist**: "God will someday blot out all sin and sinners, and establish a clean universe once again. The lost will burn up like a broom sage field."

Again, I say, "Let God be true and every man a liar!"

4. **Reality**: Hell is a real Place, real People are going there, real Punishment is there. Much of what we know of Hell, we learn from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He was the greatest hellfire and brimstone preacher in the Bible. Of the 162 references to Hell and eternal judgment in the New Testament, 70 were spoken by the Lord Jesus! Why did Jesus speak so much on this subject?

A.) He believed in Hell's reality. (Mk.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: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 45 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: 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 47 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: 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*

A.) He warned man about Hell because He did not want them to go there. Of all the passages that deal with Hell, the one before us this morning is the greatest of all. In this passage, Jesus literally rips the lid off Hell and allows us to look into the things that are happening there. We are allowed a **Glimpse Into A Place Called Hell**.

1. **There is a Contrast in the Men Themselves.** One rich and the other poor

2. **There is a Contrast in the Manner of their Deaths.** One died and was buried, the other greeted by the angels of the Lord and escorted to Paradise.

3. **There is a Contrast in their Destinations.** One in Hell and the other in paradise. God help each of us to do what we need to do today!
I. Consider Hell is a Forgotten Fact. (V.19)

1. **Hell is a reality and it must not be forgotten.** Here in (Lk Ch 16) our Lord Jesus Christ draws back the veil that separates the earthly from the eternal. He gives us the history of two men. One who died and went to heaven, the other died and went to hell. I want to talk to you about "A Man in Hell in spite of the Mercies of God."

2. When I read this passage here I think of the parable in (Lk.12:16-21) so many forget the reality of hell because of the activities of life. But neighbour if you die lost you will find it is a fact!

   A. Notice his Description.
      1. He was Rich. (V.19) "...purple and fine linen..." = wanting nothing which taste and appetite craved and money could procure.
      2. He was Religious. (V.24,28) He prayed for mercy, and water in (V.24) he prayed for his brothers in (V.28)
   B. Notice his Death. (V.22) (Heb.9:27) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"
      1. His death was Sudden. (No hint of sickness) (Pro. 27:1) Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
      2. His death was Sobering. (It took hell to open his what about you!)
   C. Notice his Distress. (V.24-31)
      1. From the Burning. (V.24) (Unquenchable fire.)
      2. From the Burdens. (V.28) (Go tell my brethren.)

II. Consider Hell Is A Frightening Future. (V.23-24)

1. Why is hell so frightening?
   A. Notice the Description of Hell.
      1. The Heat in Hell. The man in (Lk.16:24) cries: "...I am tormented in this FLAME." In Matthew 13:42, Jesus says: "And shall cast them into a FURNACE OF FIRE: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." In (Mt.25:41), Jesus says: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting FIRE,..." (Rev.20:15) says, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the LAKE OF FIRE."
      2. The Horror of Hell. Jesus says of the man in Luke 16: 23 "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in TORMENTS." 24 "...for I am TORmented in this FLAME." 28 "...PLACE OF TORMENT." It is humanly impossible to comprehend the Bible description of hell. **Nothing on earth can compare with it.** No nightmare could produce a terror to match that of hell. No horror movie could describe it’s fright. No crime scene with all it’s blood and gore could begin to match it’s horror.
         You'll see HELL...
         You'll smell HELL...
         You'll breathe HELL...
         You'll hear HELL...
         You'll feel HELL...

   **It'll be beyond anything humanly imaginable!** The Bible describes it as weeping (Matt 8:12), wailing (Matt 13:42), gnashing of teeth (Matt 13:50), darkness (Matt 23:39), flames (Luke 16:24), burning (Isa 33:14), torments (Luke 16:23), everlasting punishment! Jesus Christ says in Matthew 25:41, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into EVERLASTING FIRE, prepared for the devil and his angels."
   In Matthew 13:42, Jesus says: "And shall cast them into a FURNACE OF FIRE :there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

   2. The Hopelessness in Hell. (V.25- 31) Rev. 14:11: "The smoke of their TORMENT ascendeth up for EVER AND EVER: and they have NO REST DAY NOR NIGHT."

   B. Notice the Destination of Hell.

      1. Its Location. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He descended into hell. In (Acts 2: 31), "...seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in HELL" When Jesus Christ died His soul went into hell. And in Matthew 12:40, Jesus Christ says: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly: so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the HEART OF THE EARTH. The Bible is clear — Hell is inside the earth (Eph. 4:9), says of Jesus: "Now
that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the **LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH**.

2. Its Manifestation. Have you seen pictures of a volcano erupting, spewing a lake of fire from inside the earth — consuming everything within miles just from the heat? When Mount St. Helens erupted in May 18, 1980, it was described by reporters, "when **HELL** surfaced upon the earth." The book, Volcanoes, Earth's Awakening (p.91) describes an erupting volcano as "descent into **HELL**". The Bible says in (Isa 5:14) **Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.**

3. Its Revelation. In Numbers 16, the Bible gives the account of people falling into hell alive! "And **THE EARTH OPENED HER MOUTH**, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive **INTO THE PIT**, and the **EARTH CLOSED UPON THEM.**" (Num.16:32-33)

C. Notice the Duration of Hell.

1.) If it was for a few days, a few months, a few years or even a million years, but to be tormented — **FOREVER**! You will despair of ever having any deliverance! You will beg for death itself to come and take you away! You will curse the day you were born! Revelation 14:11 says, **"The smoke of their TORMENT ascended up for EVER AND EVER: and they have NO REST DAY NOR NIGHT.**

2.) Three people die every second, 180 every minute, 10,800 people an hour. An automobile accident... A heart attack... A stroke... **ONE thing is CERTAIN — you WILL DIE** — today... tomorrow... a week... a month... a year... 5 years... 10 years... 20 years... 50 years... **ONE THING IS CERTAIN** — "...it is appointed unto man once TO DIE."

III. Consider Hell Is A Fools Finish!

1. "**And in hell .... "** (16:23) What other place fills us with horror like hell does? A few years ago a man brought forth his strong argument against the Bible's teaching on hell. He said, "**I am seventy years of age, and have never seen such a place as hell, after all that has been said about it.**" His little grandson, of about seven years of age who was listening, asked him, "**Grandpa have you ever been dead yet?**" You see, immediately after this rich man died "in **hell he lift up his eyes.**" (16:23) Indeed hell was such a place of terror the rich man wanted none of his family to come where he was. Why?

A. Notice hell is place where the sinner WILL SUFFER CONSCIOUSLY:

1. John Wesley the founder of the Methodist Church, said," **Stick your finger in the flame, how does it feel ? You cannot keep it there one second, will think of what it will be like to have the whole body in the flames of hell forever.**" The Lord Jesus who is the preacher here said that immediately after this rich man passed out of time into eternity, "**in hell he lift up his eyes being in torments.**" (16:23) He saw, felt, cried, plead, remembered. He was awake alright in the flames of hell. Will this be your destiny? One moment after you die will you lift up your eyes in hell in torments?

B. Notice hell is place where the sinner WILL REMEMBER VIVIDLY:

1. For did you notice Abraham's response to this rich man in hell, "**Son remember .... "** (16:26) In hell you will remember every message you heard, every service you attended, every Christian who spoke to you about your need of Christ! What will you remember in hell? Will you recall your father sitting by your side and urging you to seek the Lord? Yes! Will you remember your mother's tears in hell as she pleaded with you to trust Christ? Yes! Will you recall this preacher urging you to "**flee from the wrath to come, ?"**

C. Notice hell is place where the sinner WILL BE LOST ETERNALLY:

1. For once in hell men are in hell for how long? Forever!