

# SERMONS ON HEAVEN AND HELL

By

**John Stacy**

*Published by*

**J.C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS**

Winona/Singapore/New Delhi

Copyright © 1977  
JOHN STACY

Third Printing 1986  
Printed in U.S.A.

Order From:  
J.C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS  
Route 2, Box 156  
Winona, Mississippi 38967  
Phone (601) 283-1192



## **DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to the memory of Paul Simon, my father in the gospel, who gave me his example and the encouragement I needed to begin preaching the gospel of Christ.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to express my profound gratitude to Sherry McDaniel for the untold hours that she has spent in typing up these manuscripts. It was my privilege to baptize her several years ago. She has been a diligent and an enthusiastic Christian ever since.

I am also indebted to Cecil Ingle for designing the cover of this book. Cecil is a man of many talents and a great asset to the church. It was my good fortune to baptize this man some years ago. He is not only my brother in Christ, he is my friend and for this I am truly grateful.

I regret that I have been unable to locate the names of the authors of some of the hymns and poems used in this book.

## INTRODUCTION

“What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death” (Psa. 89:48)? “. . .it is appointed unto men once to die” (Heb. 9:27). “As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more” (Psa. 103:15, 16). “If a man die, shall he live again” (Job 14:14)? “. . .there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:15). “. . .they that have done good unto the resurrection of life (everlasting life) and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation shame and everlasting contempt.” (John 5:29; Dan. 12:2).

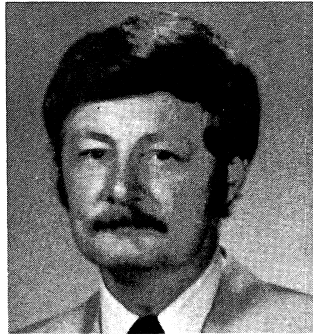
The word of God affirms in language that cannot be misunderstood that the soul of man lives on. In an age of materialism it is hard to impress people with the doctrine of immortality. But, lovers of truth and the souls of mankind are duty bound to preach to mortals who one day must put on immortality the message of “heaven or hell”.

Brother John Stacy is a man who loves the truth and the souls of men. He has now given to us a much needed volume on the only two eternal alternatives. I do not know of a man more fervant in the proclamation of truth than Brother Stacy. Knowing the “goodness of God” and the “terror of the Lord” these messages come forth to lead and persuade men to repent. We commend him for his efforts and pray that these messages will receive a wide circulation and accomplish the purpose for which they are sent forth.

Michael W. Kiser  
Union City, Tennessee

February 7, 1977

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



**John Stacy**

John Stacy was born on February 5, 1942, in Columbus, Ohio. After graduating from high school in 1959, Mr. Stacy served in the Navy for three and one half years. During this time he served as a leadership training instructor. He attended Pensacola Junior College; Freed-Hardeman College, A.A.; Oklahoma Christian College, B.A.; Harding Graduate School; Alabama Christian School of Religion, M.A.; and The International Bible Institute and Seminary, M.Th., D.Min., Litt.D.

He has served as evangelist for churches of Christ in Homestead and Key West, Florida, as well as Dyer, Dyersburg, and Rutherford, Tennessee. He also serves as one of the English speakers on the Voice of Truth radio broadcast in India. Mr. Stacy has preached the gospel in fifteen nations throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean.

He is the author of twenty-seven books. He has also published *Harvest Time Sermons* by Jim Huffman. He is the owner and operator of Stacy Publications and Book Service. His books have been distributed all over the world. He is married to the former Hilda Smith. They have one son, John Troy.

## PREFACE

When this writer began to prepare an in depth series of lessons on the Biblical doctrine of heaven and hell, he soon found out that there was very little material in our brotherhood that gave a detailed analysis of these subjects.

The author certainly makes no claim for total originality. Information for these lessons has been gleaned from many sources over the years. Books that I have found to be especially helpful were, *The Biblical Doctrine of Heaven* by Wilbur Smith, *Heaven* by Vern Worcester, *What Is Hell Like* by Jimmy Allen, *Hell Is No Joke* by Robert L. Sumner, and *A Study of 1, 2, 3, John and Jude with a specialized study of Satan, Demons, Heaven, Hell, Hades, Angels, and the Judgment Day* by James Meadows.

The sermons in this book have been preached in local work and in gospel meetings. They also have been preached on radio and television. These lessons were delivered with the conviction that people need a clearer understanding of the ultimate ages to come.

It is my hope and prayer that this little volume can be used by the man in the pew and the man in the pulpit to save the lost and to keep the saved, saved.

John Stacy  
Jan. 11, 1977

## **THE PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT**

There will be nothing more beautiful than heaven and there will never be anything more horrible than hell. We need to be well informed concerning both so that we might make a wise decision as to the one we choose for our future dwelling place.

Heaven is pictured in the Bible as a home the Lord has prepared for the righteous, and hell is described as a place for the wicked. Both will be for eternity.

Brother John Stacy, a personal friend of mine, wrote this book of sermons on heaven and hell back in 1976. It has been well received, and as an indication of that, it is now being reprinted. I am happy to have a part in the printing and I pray that it will be rewarding to all who may read it.

J.C. Choate  
Church of Christ  
Winona, MS  
January 25, 1982

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
Preface	
This Place Called Heaven	11
No Sadness There	17
Recognition In Heaven?	23
Heaven, Those That Will Be There	31
Heaven, That Which Will Not Be There	37
Heaven, Those Who Will Not Be There	41
Facts About Heaven	47
Why I Want To Go To Heaven	53
Preach Hell Brother!	59
Go To Hell?	67
Hell Is No Joke	73
The Horrors of Hell	81
Who's Who In Hell	87

(Job 26:7, Psm. 75:6, Ezk. 1:4, II Kings 2:11, Acts 1:9, and II Cor. 12:2).

Secondly, what is heaven? Is heaven a fantasy, a state of mind, a dream, an invention of the clergy? No! Heaven is a real place. Jno. 14:1-3 tells us, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." In these verses we learn that heaven is a place and that the Father dwells there. It is a place where the Holy Spirit dwells (Jno. 1:32). Heaven is a literal place. Jesus said in Mt. 5:10, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Jesus declared in Mt. 6:19-21, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Paul said in Col. 1:5, "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of truth of the gospel." In I Pet. 1:4 Peter declared, "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." Paul stated in Heb. 11:10, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Paul wrote in Heb. 12:22, "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." See also (Gen. 5:24, II Kings 2:11, Acts 1:9). Heaven is a city with walls. John declared in Rev. 21:12, 14, 19, "And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And the foundations



# **THIS PLACE CALLED HEAVEN**

Have you ever thought about how much we Christians act like heathen? We preach about how wonderful it is to be a Christian. We say we have a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. Let a loved one in Christ die and we act like we have just lied! We say by our actions that this world is better than the next, death is a tragedy, and heaven is a scrap heap for the worn out and useless. Heaven to us is far from this! Let's consider some important questions about heaven.

First of all, where is heaven? Let Isaiah tell us in Isa. 14: 13-14, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." From these verses we learn that heaven is up. We also learn that heaven is above the stars, above the clouds, in the uttermost part of the north. See also

of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald.” This city has a river. John Said in Rev. 22:1, “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” It has gates. In Rev. 21:25 we read, “And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. This celestial home of the soul has the tree of life. In Rev. 22:2 John said, “In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which have twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” This city of God needs no sun nor moon to shine on the nations of the earth that shall walk in its midst. John states in Rev. 21:23-24, “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.” Heaven is a country far better than this world. Paul said in Hebrews 11:16, “But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”

In the third place, how big is heaven? The city lieth foursquare. It is 12,000 furlongs high, wide, and long. (Rev. 21:16) In other words it is fifteen hundred miles square. That’s the distance between Maine and Florida, and Tulsa and Los Angeles. It has been estimated that 41 trillion apartments could be placed in heaven.

Finally, who will be in heaven? Enoch and Elijah will be there. In Gen. 5:24 we read, “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” In II Kings 2:11 we read, “And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” Cherubim and Seraphim will inhabit heaven.

David said in Psm. 80:1, "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth." In Isa. 6:2 we read, "Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly." The Godhead of course will be there (Jno. 1:32, 14:1-3). Men like Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Barak, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets will be there (Heb. 11:1-40). Those who are in the church-kingdom will be there. Paul said in I Cor. 15:24, "Then cometh the end, where he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." In Heb. 12:23 we read, "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." In Rev. 6:9 John said, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held." John declared in Rev. 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death." John states in Rev. 14:13, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." In Rev. 19:9 we read, "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." The four living creatures and the four and twenty elders will be there. John said in Rev. 4:4, "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold." In Rev. 4:6 we read, "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like

unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”

Friends, if we die in our sins we cannot be where Jesus is. In Jno. 8:21 we read, “Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.” John said in Rev. 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” “And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (Rev. 21:27). We must be born anew, of the water and the Spirit, if we are going to see and enter the earthly and the heavenly kingdoms of our Lord. (Jno. 3:3,5). Won’t you heed the admonishing of Peter to believe and to repent and be baptized that your sins might be remitted? (Acts 2:38) If you need to be restored, reconciled, if you need to rededicate your life, do so now that you can reclaim your heavenly home. If you miss heaven you’ve missed it all! You have missed it all because as someone wrote:

There’s no disappointment in heaven,  
 No weariness, sorrow or pain;  
 No hearts that are bleeding and broken,  
 No song with a minor refrain.  
 The clouds of our earthly horizon  
 Will never appear in the sky,  
 For all will be sunshine and gladness,  
 With never a sob nor a sigh.

We’ll never pay rent for our mansion,  
 The taxes will never come due;  
 Our garments will never grow threadbare,

But always be fadeless and new;  
We'll never be hungry nor thirsty,  
Nor languish in poverty there,  
For all the rich bounties of heaven  
His sanctified children will share.

There'll never be crepe on the doorknob,  
No funeral train in the sky;  
No graves on the hillsides of glory,  
For there we shall never more die.  
The old will be young there forever,  
Transformed in a moment of time;  
Immortal we'll stand in His likeness,  
The stars and the sun to outshine.

I'm bound for that beautiful city  
My Lord has prepared for His own:  
Where all the redeemed of all ages  
Sing "Glory" around the white throne;  
Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven,  
And the glories I there shall behold:  
What a joy that will be when my Saviour I see,  
In that beautiful city of gold!

# NO SADNESS THERE

An indescribably wonderful experience awaits you if you are a child of God. There is coming a day when we will close our eyes to all the familiar scenes of the earth and we will open our eyes in the celestial city of heaven. You may have lived a full life. You may have had many thrilling experiences. Your eyes may have feasted on the rare and exotic things of this world. Adventure may have been your goal and you may have sailed the seven seas in pursuit of it. My friend, all of this will be nothing, when you set your feet on the streets of gold in the paradise of God, called heaven! Let's look at some questions often asked about heaven the home of the soul.

First of all, will the knowledge of hell make us sad? How can we be happy knowing that a loved one will be in hell? Does it bother you now if they are lost? Are you happy now? We will be happy in heaven the same way Jesus is. He knows all. Paul in Heb. 4:13 says,

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” He knows the sins we have committed and he knows about hell. Jesus declared in Mt. 10:28, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Jesus said in Mk. 9:47-48, “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 the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” Surely our sins grieve Jesus beyond measure and surely the thought of one soul being damned in hell, must flood his soul with an ocean of sorrow. Yet, Jesus is happy! Jesus teaches us to be happy. In John 14:27 Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.” Jesus declared in John 16:33, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John said in Rev. 21:4, “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.” We can be happy because there are relationships that are higher and holier than those of earth. Jesus taught in Mt. 10:37, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Jesus said in Mt. 22:30, “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as angels of God in heaven.”

Secondly, what will our bodies be like in heaven? Our bodies will be incorruptible, glorious, powerful, spiritual and immortal. Paul said in I Cor. 15:52-53, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,

and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." We will never die! Jesus said in Lk. 20:36, "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." Our bodies will be like Jesus' body. John said in I Jno. 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Paul said in Phil. 3:20-21, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

What about children? Will they be in heaven? Yes! Jesus said in Mt. 18:10, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is heaven." Jesus declared in Mt. 19:14, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Children who die before the age of accountability will be in heaven. Well, will the streets of heaven ring with the laughter of boys and girls or will their bodies be adult bodies? All we really know is that we will be like Christ. Does this mean that they will have the body of a thirty-three year old adult? I don't know!

What about the elderly? Robert Browning said, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be, the last of life for which the first is made." It is God's will that we grow old. This world is not our home. We are just passing through (Heb. 11:10). So when your hair turns silver and your eyes grow dim and when your step grows slower and your mind is not as quick as it used to be, remember you are headed for a land where you'll never grow old. Men throughout the centuries have



been searching for the fountain of youth. Men are doing all they can to prolong life. What a shame it is that mankind has never discovered that the elixir of life is found only in heaven (Rev. 22:1). Old age longs for heaven. Friends and family have gone to the other side. The older one gets, the more he loses the ambitions of youth. The questions and challenges of this life are no longer important. Men find that in old age they become less interested in the things of the here and now. Suddenly, man becomes sick and tired of sin, heartache, trial, and tribulation and wants to lay these burdens down. Thank God we can! How old will the young be? We simply do not know. We will be like Christ.

Won't it be wonderful to be in heaven? Think of it, no more tears, death, sorrow, crying, and pain for eternity! (Rev. 21:4).

Eternity is an infinite line. If the strongest winged angel could fly in one direction for a billion years, he could no more find the end of eternity than he could find the cradle or tomb of God. Eternity is day without morning and evening. It was high noon when the world was made, it will be high noon forever! O eternity! The idea deepens and widens and towers, until the human mind, confounded and crushed cries, O eternity, tell us thy name, all language begs at thy footstool. O eternity how wonderful art thou when thou art joined to heaven. O heavenly city open up your gates and let the blood-washed sinners in!

Won't you prepare to live forever by believing in God's son? Jesus said in Jno. 8:24, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." Jesus said in Lk. 13:3, "I tell you Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish." Jesus declared in Mt. 10:32, 33, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

Jesus declared in Mk. 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." If you have left your first love, won't you repent so that you can have the right to the tree of life? John said in Rev. 2:4-7, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Remember, a man may go to heaven without health, without fame, without great learning, without a great name, without great earnings, without culture, without friends, without a thousand other things, but he can never go to heaven without Christ!

### A LITTLE WAY

A little way! I know it is not far  
 To that dear home where my beloved are;  
 And still my heart sits, like a bird upon  
 The empty nest, and mourns its treasures gone,  
     Plumed for their flight,  
     And vanished quite.  
 Ah me! Where is the comfort? Though I say  
 They have but journeyed on a little way.

A little way! At times they seem so near,  
 Their voices even murmur in my ear,  
 To all my duties loving presence lend,  
 And with sweet ministry my steps attend.  
 Twas here we met and parted company;  
 Why should their gain be such a grief to me?

This sense of loss!  
This heavy cross!  
Dear Savior, take the burden off, I pray,  
And show me heaven is but--a little way.

A little way? The sentence I repeat,  
Hoping and longing to extract some sweet  
To mingle with the bitter; from Thy hand  
I take the cup I cannot understand,  
And in my weakness give myself to Thee.  
Although it seems so very, very far  
To that dear home where my beloved are,  
I know, I know,  
It is not so;  
Oh, give me faith to believe it when I say  
That they are gone--gone but a little way.

--ANON.

# RECOGNITION IN HEAVEN?

Man does not always think of God. In fact, the majority of time, man thinks worldly thoughts, material thoughts, thoughts about self, thoughts about his own pleasure. In contrast, God always thinks of man. God has had some great thoughts. He thought about the creation of the world. God also thought about man and his need to be redeemed. God's own Son was sent to save man's soul. God has thought of man's future. He must have looked down the stream of time and seen man as a wanderer, tired, weary, burdened with care and sin and said, I'll make a place for man at the end of the way. This place of eternal bliss is called heaven. Let's learn some important things about this upper and better kingdom.

First of all, let us ask and answer the question: Will we recognize each other in heaven? When a mother loses a baby at birth, when we lose a family member in death, we all want to know if we will see them again and

if we will know them. In answering this important question, let us point out that memory will be retained after death. Daniel 12:2 tells us that some will be raised to everlasting shame and contempt. God himself has a book of remembrances that will be used on the day of judgment. Mal. 3:16 states, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." Men will answer for every idle word they spoke on earth. Jesus said in Mt. 12:36, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." We will be judged by the book of life. John said in Rev. 20:12, "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." If we can't remember anything after death then these passages wouldn't make any sense. We will remember! Memory will be essential in the judgment day of God.

Angels and men will retain their names. Gabriel is known as Gabriel in Luke 1:26. Jude 9 talks of Michael the archangel. The Jews at the end of time will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jesus in Mt. 8:11 states, "And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." These Jewish fathers will retain their names after death and in eternity. Our names will be written in the book of life. Jesus told the Apostles in Lk. 10:20, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Lazarus was still Lazarus in Hades (Lk. 16:19-31). In I Sam. 28:14 Samuel was still Samuel though already dead. Moses and Elijah were still Moses and Elijah when they appeared with Jesus on

the mount of transfiguration. Jesus said in Mt. 17:3, "And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him." Jesus our Lord was recognized as Jesus following his resurrection (Mt. 28:9). Friends made in this life will welcome us in heaven. Jesus declared in Lk. 16:9, "And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." The friend of Jesus, Lazarus, retained his identity in death and in his resurrection. In John 11:43 we read, "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth."

The idea of reunion with loved ones points to the fact that we will know one another. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in death were gathered to their people (Gen. 25:8, 35:39, 49:33). David believed he would see his child lost at birth. In II Sam. 12:23 we read, "But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." The dead and the living will be united at the coming of Jesus. Paul said in I Thess. 4:13-18, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

In the second place, let's consider what we will do in

heaven. We will see God in heaven. Isaiah said in Isaiah 33:17, "Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off." In I John 3:2 we read, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." John declared in Rev. 22:4, "and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." We will worship God in heaven. John stated in Rev. 5:9, "and they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by the blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." John declared in Rev. 7:9-12, "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." We are going to be happy in heaven. There will be fulness of joy, the joy of our Lord, and it will be exceedingly great joy that will be ours. David said in Psm. 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." Jesus said in Mt. 25:21, "His lord said unto him, Well done thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Jude stated in Jude :24, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you

faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." The tree of life will be ours to partake of. In Rev. 2:7 we read, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." We will drink of the water of life that flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:1). There will be rest for the people of God (Heb. 4:9). The word rest means refreshment (Acts 3:19, Gal. 6:9). In Rev. 14:13 John states, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Though there will be rest, there will also be labor. Yes, we will work in heaven. Heaven is a place where God's will is done. We will serve him and we will love it. (Mt. 6:10). Jesus said in Mt. 25:21, "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee a ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." John said in Rev. 7:15, "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." In Rev. 22:3 we read, "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." What will we do in heaven? We will receive the crown of righteousness, life, and glory. Paul said in II Tim. 4:8, "Henceforth there is laid up for men a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto them also that love his appearing." In Jas. 1:12 we read, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." We will be clothed as well in white



garments. Jesus in Rev. 3:5 said, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." John said in Rev. 7:9, "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." Finally, we will bask in the glory of Christ. Paul penned these words in Rom. 8:17, 18, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Marco Polo in the thirteenth century left Venice for the Far East. When he came home he told tales of beauty and wonder about the Orient. While dying he was told to renounce the lies that he told about the East, but he said the half has not been told. My friend, the half has not been told about heaven!

Surely, you want to go to heaven where you can be with God and with loved ones and friends. Surely, you want to experience the joys of that celestial city of God. Won't you act now to insure yourself a mansion by becoming a New Testament Christian. Consider the example of the Philippian jailer as Luke states in Acts 16:30-34, "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house." The jailor and his household heard the word of

God. They believed it and with penitent hearts they washed the stripes of Paul and Silas, and immediately they were baptized. Do what they did! If you have erred from the truth (Jas. 5:19-20) turn around now while there is time and once again travel the narrow road (Mt. 7:13, 14) that leads to life.

So live that you will be able to say what Dr. Harry Rimmer was able to say in a letter to his preacher. Harry Rimmer said,

“Next Sunday, you are going to talk about heaven. I am interested in that land because I have held clear title to a bit of property there for 50 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without price. But the donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation. It is not a vacant lot. For more than a half a century I have been sending up materials to the greatest architect of the universe who has been building a home for me which will never need remodeling or repairing because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old. Termites cannot undermine its foundation, for it rests upon the rock of ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No lock or bolts will ever be placed on the doors. For no vicious person can enter my dwelling place, almost completed, and almost ready for me to enter in and to abide in peace eternally without fear or being rejected.

There is a valley of deep shadow between this place where I live and that to which I am going. I cannot reach my home in that city without passing through this valley. But I am not afraid because the best friend I have ever had went through that valley long, long ago and drove away all the gloom. He stuck with me through thick and thin since I first became acquainted with him over fifty years ago. I hope to hear your sermon Sunday but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to heaven has no date marked for that journey, no return coupon, and no permit for

baggage. Yes, I am ready to go and if I don't see you Sunday I'll meet with you someday."

Harry Rimmer died before this letter came to his preacher!

# **HEAVEN, THOSE THAT WILL BE THERE**

In Rev. 21:1-2 John said, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea, and I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." In Rev. 21:12, we are told that heaven has a great wall with twelve gates and at the twelve gates are twelve angels. We also learn from the above text that the names of the twelve tribes of Israel are written on the twelve gates. In Rev. 21:14 John states that the walls of heaven have twelve foundations and the names of the Apostles are written thereon. Heaven is a city that lies foursquare. It is twelve thousand furlongs in length. Heaven is a city of pure gold, like unto clear glass (Rev. 21:18). The foundations of the walls of our heavenly home are garnished with all manner of precious stones (Rev. 21:19). The gates of our eternal home are pearl and the streets are of purest

gold (Rev. 21:21). How beautiful heaven must be! But if we are going to make heaven our home, we need to know just who will be in heaven.

May I begin by suggesting that II Pet. 1:5-11 gives us a description of those who will be granted an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord. In II Pet. 1:5-11 Peter declares, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to things, ye shall never fall; For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Men must add virtue, moral power, energy, and strength. The word virtue also means vigor of soul and moral excellence. Knowledge, that is insight, understanding, or practical wisdom is an essential ingredient that we must add. In addition there is self-control, mastery over self. Men must reach a point where they will not let other people or things control them. Then men must add to their faith patience. The word patience means steadfastness, endurance, a never give up attitude. Brotherly kindness, love of the brethren is necessary as well. Then we must add the ingredient of love. The word for love in the original language means to love the unlovable and the unlovely. This word refers to a love which knows no limits. It is a love that we cannot earn or merit. This word is the very one

that's used for God's love for man. Like Paul, all we can do is pray that we might be able to comprehend its breath, length, height, and depth (Eph. 3:18). Peter tells us that we should give diligence to make our calling and election sure, for if ye do these things ye shall never fall (II Pet. 1:10).

Secondly, in Revelation chapters two and three we learn that those who keep on overcoming will populate heaven. There will never be victory without war. We must strive or agonize to enter in by the narrow door. Jesus said in Lk. 13:24, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." We must fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith if the crown of life is to be ours (II Tim. 4:7-8). But how can we overcome? How can victory over sin and the Devil be ours? In Rev. 12:11 we read, "They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony, and because they loved not their own life unto death.

Let's take a look at this text's component parts. The blood of the Lamb enables Jesus to be our propitiation. Paul said in Rom. 3:25, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." The word propitiation means to appease the wrath of God. Paul penned these words in Rom. 5:9, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." The blood of Jesus not only controls God's wrath, it redeems and washes us from our sins. Paul stated in Eph. 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." John wrote in Rev. 1:5, "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." Then there is the word of testimony. Those who overcome are

totally involved in communicating the good news of Jesus to the lost. Jesus said in Mk. 16:15-16, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." John wrote in Rev. 6:9, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held." Finally, Christians can be victorious by giving their lives to God. They will live and they will die for God. Paul is a good example. Paul said in Phil. 1:21, 23, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better." Paul with great confidence declares in II Cor. 12:15, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." Those who love Jesus and the church more than self will always be winners.

Thirdly, those who die in the Lord will be in heaven. John wrote in Rev. 14:13, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." How do you get into the Lord? Rom. 10:10 tells us that we believe unto. Acts 11:18 tells us that we repent unto. Rom. 10:10 tells us that we confess unto. Gal. 3:26, 27, and Rom. 6:3-6 tells us that we are baptized into. Death will be a blessed event for those who died in the Lord. Those in Christ will receive their eternal rest.

Finally, in Rev. 19:7-9 John tells us, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the

marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God." From this text we learn that the bride of Christ, the church, will be the center of attraction at the marriage supper of the Lamb. The church is the bride of Christ. In Rom. 7:4 Paul said, "Wherefore my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him that hath been raised from the dead, that ye should bring forth fruit unto God." In II Cor. 11:2 we read, "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin unto Christ." Note if you will, that those who make up the bride of Christ are those who have made themselves ready by their righteous deeds. Truly our works will follow us. (Rev. 14:13). It will pay to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. (Mt. 6:33).

Will heaven be your home? Can you say with David, I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever? (Psm. 23:6). If heaven is to be your home, God must be your Father. You must be born into the family of God. Jesus said in Jno. 3:5, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." The kingdom of God or the church of God make up God's house. Paul in I Tim. 3:15 said, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and the ground of truth." Only family members or children can be joint-heirs with Christ. Only God's children will share the glory of Christ. (Rom. 8:17-18).



Upward where the stars are burning,  
Silent, silent in their turning,  
    Round the never changing pole;  
Upward where the sky is brightest,  
Upward where the blue is lightest,  
    Lift I now my longing soul.

Far beyond that arch of gladness,  
Far beyond these clouds of sadness,  
    Are the many mansions fair.  
Far from pain and sin and folly,  
In that palace of the holy,  
    I would find my mansions there.

Horatius Bonar

# HEAVEN, THAT WHICH WILL NOT BE THERE

Very often in order to understand something, we have to look at it from a little different angle. We have already considered heaven and those that will be there. Now let's look at that which will not be in heaven.

First of all, there will be no sin in heaven. Paul in I Cor. 6:9 said, "know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God." John said, "all unrighteousness is sin" (I Jno. 5:17). In Rev. 21:27 we are told, "there shall in no wise enter into it, anything unclean or he that maketh an abomination or a lie." In Heaven there will be no more curse (Rev. 22:3). A world there is no sin! How unreal!

Secondly, there will be no shame in heaven. Paul in Heb. 11:16 said, "But now they desire a better country that is an heavenly, wherefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he hath prepared for them a city. No more the bowing of the head in disgrace. Heaven will be in this respect the opposite of

hell. Hell will be a place of everlasting shame and contempt (Dan. 12:2).

In the third place, there will be no hunger and thirst in heaven. Rev. 7:16-17 tells us, "they shall hunger no more, neither shall they thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor heat, for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto the living fountains of waters. John tells about the river of the water of life and the tree of life in Rev. 22:1-2 when he said, "and he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it and either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Fourthly, let us learn that there will be no sea in heaven (Rev. 21:1). The sea stood for storms in the Jewish mind. No doubt John as he penned the book of Revelation, could hear the roaring sea around the Isle of Patmos. All of us have encountered storms as we sail across the great ocean of life. We'll certainly face them as Christians. Paul said in II Tim. 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution." Storms, temptations and trials will never more dash against the shores of heaven, for Jesus our Lord, the ruler of this universe has the power to stand and cry, peace be still (Mk. 4:39). The sea stood for restlessness. Isaiah stated in Isa. 57:20-21, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." The sea is never still, it is always in motion, rising and falling, the tide going in and out. We are like the sea in the here and now. One day we are on Mount Everest and the next day we are in the valley of depression. Like Noah's dove we'll find no rest on the troubled waters of this world. The sea also stood for separation in the Jewish mind. We think of

loved ones now dead, how far away they seem. We will never see them again in this life. Heaven will be a land of no separations, no more goodbyes! Let's go to heaven!

In the fifth place, there will be no temple in heaven. John said, "I saw no temple therein, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it" (Rev. 21:22). The word temple is "naos" in the original language that means sanctuary, a place set apart where men could go to meet with God. There will be no temple because we will be in God's presence at all times. Rev. 21:3 states, "behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them and be their God." Can you imagine what it will be like to be in the immediate presence of God at all times? How wonderful!

Finally, there will be no night in heaven. "The city hath no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God did lighten it and the lamp thereof is the Lamb" (Rev. 21:23). John also tells us that "the gates thereof shall in no wise be shut by day for there shall be no night there" (Rev. 21:25). Darkness has always been symbolic of evil and fear. Heaven will have no evil to fear. Heaven will in this respect be the opposite of hell described by Jude 13 as the blackness of darkness that hath been reserved forever and ever.

My friends, we are but strangers and pilgrims seeking a country. Paul in Heb. 11:13-14 said, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country." Surely, like the Old Testament saints we too desire a better country, which is an heavenly (Heb. 11:16). Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). Our

homes are in heaven. Jesus told us in Jno. 14:1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also." If you want to go to heaven you must be a Christian. You can obey the gospel, by obeying Jesus. (Heb. 5:8-9, II Thess. 1:7-9). Our Lord said we must believe and we must be baptized if we are to be saved (Mk. 16:16). He also taught that we must be faithful unto death if we are to possess the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

# HEAVEN, THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE THERE

Soon it will be vacation time. We all like to sit down and plan our vacation. We enjoy making decisions about where we will go. Sometimes we are so eager to learn more about the place that we are going that we get in touch with a travel agency or a Chamber of Commerce. We as Christians are planning to go to the most exciting place in the universe. We should want to know more about heaven, that land that is fairer than day. As we focus our attention on heaven, let us consider those who will not be there.

In Mt. 7:21-23 Jesus said, "Not everyone 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. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." We learn first of all from these verses that it is not going to be enough to be religious.

We must do all of God's will if we are to go to heaven. Jesus condemned the religious leaders of his day for a failure to keep the weightier matters of the law. Our Lord said in Mt. 23:23, "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." We have no right to call Jesus Lord if we will not do his will (Lk. 6:46). James said, to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin (Jas. 4:17). Heaven is a place where God's will is done by those who did God's will on earth (Mt. 6:10).

In the second place, Jesus said in Mt. 25:41-45, "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 hungred, 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 hungred, 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." Let us learn from these verses that those who neglected to meet the needs of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and those in prison will not be in heaven. We must learn to be ready unto every good work (Titus 3:1). We were created for good works and we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10).

Thirdly, from I Cor. 6:9-10, we learn of some more people who will not be in heaven. The immoral (fornicators and adulterers) and the godless (idolaters) are damned! The effeminate, that is the pleasure lover, will be excluded from that celestial city. Abusers of themselves with men, or homosexuals will be barred

from heaven. Thieves moved by covetousness or greed will not populate the divine community. Drunkards or consumers of intoxicants will go to hell not heaven. Revilers or people who use reproachful speech, will not be around to blaspheme man or God in the next world. Extortioners, people who engage in pillage and plunder, people who seize that which belongs to another and carry it off, will have no chance to do so in heaven, for they too will be in hell!

In the fourth place, those who have left their first love will not be numbered with the saints of God in heaven. Jesus said in Rev. 2:4-5, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Surely, our first love is our God. Our Lord declared in Mt. 22:37-38, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." If we will not love Jesus, we will be accursed. Paul said in I Cor. 16:22, "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha." Those who have left their first works will also be excluded from heaven (Rev. 2:4-5). When men no longer love God, then there will be no motivation to work for God. Paul said, the love of Christ compelleth me (II Cor. 5:14). We must be doers of the word (Jas. 1:22).

Fifthly, let us note John's list of the damned in Rev. 21:8. The fearful, that is the coward who seeks a life of ease and safety in contrast to a life of danger and fear will go to hell not heaven. The unbeliever or the faithless, those of little faith are lost! The abominable or the polluted and defiled are unfit to inhabit heaven. The murderer who has no respect for the value of life and the fornicator who has no respect for the human body will burn in the lake of fire. No sorcerers, people who practice magic or witchcraft, will walk the streets



of gold. Those who worship idols and who utter falsehoods will never partake of the tree of life.

In the sixth place, in Rev. 22:15 we are told that dogs or male prostitutes will be excluded from heaven. Deut. 23:18 says, "Thou shalt not bring the hire of a harlot or the wages of a dog, into the house of Jehovah for any vow, for both of these are an abomination unto Jehovah thy God.

Finally, in Rev. 22:18-19 John said, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." From these verses we learn that those who add to or take away from the book of Revelation will receive the plagues written in Revelation and will have their part taken away from the tree of life and the holy city of God. Moses wrote in Deut. 4:2, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Solomon said in Prov. 30:6, "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Finally note if you will what Paul said in Gal. 1:6-9, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

We can go to heaven without wealth, without fame, without a great name, without learning culture, friends, beauty, and ten thousand other things. But we cannot go to heaven without Jesus. Won't you make him the

author of your eternal salvation? Paul declared in Heb. 5:8-9, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). Salvation or damnation, heaven or hell, the choice is yours.

Ten thousand times ten thousand,  
In sparkling raiment bright,  
The armies of the ransomed saints  
Throng up the steeps of light;  
'Tis finished — all is finished —  
Their fight with death and sin!  
Fling open wide the golden gates,  
And let the victors in.

— *Author Unknown*

# FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN

A child was born blind. After the child reached age ten, he received an operation that could give him sight for the first time in his life. The day came for the bandages to be removed and when he opened his eyes and the marvelous blessing of sight was his, he looked at his parents, then he looked at the beautiful world about him. Then the boy said to his parents, why didn't you tell me the world was so beautiful? His parents said, son, we tried to, but I guess we just failed to do an adequate job. We can try to describe heaven, but our efforts will be feeble at best. Let's try to get a better understanding of heaven, by placing it in contrast to hell.

First, let's notice that heaven is a place of everlasting life, while hell is a place of eternal punishment. Jesus said in Mt. 25:34, "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.” In Mt. 25:41, 46 we read, “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. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Secondly, heaven is the house of the Lord. There will be mansions for us to live in. David said in Psm. 23:6, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.” John declared in Jno. 14:1-3, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” Paul said in II Cor. 5:1, “For if 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.” Hell will be a place that we could describe as a pit, cave, den, or chains of darkness. Peter states in II Peter 2:4, “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

Thirdly, heaven will be a place of glory, honor, incorruption, and immortality (Rom. 2:7). Hell on the other hand will be a place of wrath, indignation, tribulation, and anguish (Rom. 2:8, 9).

In the fourth place, there will be no shame in heaven. Heb. 11:16 tells us that God will not be ashamed of us in that better country. Hell according to Daniel 12:2 will be a place of everlasting shame and contempt.

Fifthly, God will always be present in heaven. We will see him. We will see his face, yes, God himself will be with us. John said in I Jno. 3:2. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we

shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” In Rev. 21:3 John declared, “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.” In Rev. 22:4 we read, “And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.” Hell will never know the presence of God. Paul said in II Thess. 1:7-9, “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

In the sixth place, the tree of life will be made available to God’s people in heaven. We will eat of its fruit. Its leaves will be for the healing of the nations. Jesus said in Rev. 2:7, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.” John stated in Rev. 22:2, 14, “In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree for the healing of the nations. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates of the city.” There will be no tree of life in hell for those who will not do the will of God, will have their part from the tree of life taken out of the way (Rev. 22:19).

In the seventh place, there will be no heat in heaven (Rev. 7:16), but the chaff will be burned with unquenchable fire. John the Baptist stated in Mt. 3:12, “Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Jesus said in Mt. 13:42, "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

In the eighth place, there will be no tears to flow down the cheeks of men in heaven (Rev. 21:4). In hell there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt. 25:30). Men will cry oceans of tears in hell but they will never put out the flames of agony. The cold icy fingers of death can never touch the saved in heaven (Rev. 21:4). Hell is a place known as the second death (Rev. 20:15). No mourning, grief, sorrow, or wailing will be in heaven (Rev. 21:4). But oh my friends, men will cry out in hell for mercy. The rich man said in Lk. 16:24, "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." No more will men cry, for no more will there be the grief that we know on earth (Rev. 21:4). No more will men utter the lament of utter discontent in heaven (Rev. 21:4). Hell though, will be a place of pain. Jesus declared in Mt. 25:30, "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." In Lk. 16:23 we read, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." John said in Rev. 14:11, "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever received the mark of his name." In Mt. 13:42 we read, "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Finally, heaven will be a place of rest and refreshment (Acts 3:19, Rev. 14:13). Paul said in Heb. 4:9, "There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest to the people of God." There is no rest in hell, day or night, forever and ever (Rev. 20:10). In Isa. 57:20 we read, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt." John

said in Rev. 14:10-11, "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

I am convinced that after we get to heaven and see God, the angels, the redeemed, and the city of gold, pearl, and precious stones, we will declare, we have heard about heaven, but never in our wildest dreams, could we ever know that it would be this wonderful. When the Queen of Sheba saw the empire of Solomon, she said in I Kings 10:7 that the half had not been told! The half has not been told about heaven!

Ladies and gentlemen we were created to enjoy fellowship with God. God wants us to live forever with him. To prove this he gave his only begotten Son (Jno. 3:16) If we want eternal life we must believe on him. In Acts 2:44 Luke said, "All that believed were together and had all things common." Note how Luke uses the word believe. Believers were those who heard Peter preach and they were those who repented and were baptized and were added by the Lord to the church. Luke wrote in Acts 2:36-41, "Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other



words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.’’

I would to God that we all felt like the one who wrote these lines:

### HOMESICK FOR HEAVEN

So homesick for Heaven, for Jesus my Friend;  
On look at his face will earth’s heartaches all mend;  
I long for my Saviour, No more here to roam;  
I want to see Jesus, And Heaven and Home.

So homesick for Heaven, And yet, I must stay;  
There’s work to be done for my Saviour today;  
And though I am homesick, Yet still I shall be,  
So true, faithful, loving, My Saviour to Thee.

So homesick for Heaven, I’m so homesick tonight,  
For that heavenly land, Where God is the light.  
Where sorrow and sickness Ne’er shall come any more,  
And where we’ll see Jesus, That One we Adore.

So homesick for Heaven, So homesick am I;  
If only I could, To Heaven I’d fly.  
I long for that shore, All golden and bright,  
I long for that land, Where cometh no night.

So homesick for Heaven, Where weeping is o’er,  
Where there’s a happy reunion, And parting no more.

# WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

Do you want to go to heaven? If you answer yes, have you ever asked yourself why? I have, and I want to share the reasons why I want to go to heaven with you.

I want to go to heaven because I don't want to go to hell. Jesus said we had better fear him who has the power to cast our body and soul in hell (Mt. 10:28). I do. Jesus who can send our soul to hell is almighty. John said in Rev. 1:8, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." He has all power and all authority in heaven and on earth (Mt. 28:20). Paul said in Rom. 11:22, "behold the goodness and the severity of God." Paul said the terror of the Lord caused him to persuade men (II Cor. 5:11). It has moved me to reach out as well, to those who are lost. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, said Paul (Heb. 10:31). In hell the smoke of torment will ascend for ever and ever. In hell men will have no rest

day or night (Rev. 14:11).

### ANTITHESIS

Hell! The prison house of despair  
Here are some things that won't be there

No flowers to bloom on the banks of hell  
No beauties of nature we love so well  
No comforts of home, music, and song  
No friendship of joy will be found in that throng  
No children to brighten the long weary night  
No love nor peace, nor one ray of light  
No blood washed soul with face beaming bright  
No loving smile in that region of night  
No mercy, no pity, pardon nor grace  
No water, O God what a terrible place  
The pangs of the lost no human can tell  
Not one moments ease in the horrors of hell

Hell! the prison house of despair  
Here are some things that will be there

Fire and brimstone are there, we know  
For God in his word hath told us so  
Memory, remorse, suffering, and pain  
Weeping and wailing but all in vain  
Blasphemers, swearers, and haters of God  
Christ-rejectors who on this earth have trod,  
Murderers, gamblers, drunkards, liars,  
Will have their part in the lake of fire,  
The filthy, the vile, the cruel, and the mean,  
What a horrible mob in hell will be seen,  
Yes more humans on earth can tell  
Are the torments and woes of Eternal Hell!

Secondly, I want to go to heaven because I want to be reunited with my family and fellow Christians. I feel a lot like the individual who penned these words:

## SAFELY HOME!

I am home in Heaven, dear ones:

All's so happy, all's so bright!  
There's perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief are over,  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly  
Trode the Valley of the Shade?  
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.

Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
For I love you dearly still;  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,  
Pray to trust our Father's will.

There is work still waiting for you,  
So you must not idle stand;  
Do your work while life remaineth--  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work in all completed,  
He will gently call you home;  
Oh, the rapture of the meeting:  
Oh, the joy to see you come.

The Bible teaches that our relationships in the next life will not be the same as those we know now. Jesus

taught in Mt. 22:30, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." But this does not mean that we will not be reunited and that we will not recognize each other. The Jews will be with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in heaven (Mt. 8:11). These men will retain their identity like Moses and Elijah (Mt. 17:3). What a great joy to meet those we have known and love in this life. Surely, this will be one of the things that will make heaven, heaven!

In the third place, I want to go to heaven because I want to be in the presence of God my Father, Jesus my Saviour, and the Holy Spirit. We enjoy being in the presence of those who clearly indicate that they want us to be with them. God the Father has shown me how much he loves me and wants me with him by sending his only begotten Son to die for me. John said in Jno. 3:16, "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." Paul wrote in Rom. 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Christ my redeemer has shown me his concern about my eternal destiny on the cross. I could not have asked greater love. Jesus himself stated in Jno. 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus is preparing a mansion for me at this very hour. Our Lord told the disciples in Jno. 14:1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." The Holy Spirit shows his love for man through the words that he gave us. Yes, we have the Bible because the Holy Spirit moved men to pen the books that make it up. Peter tells us in II Pet. 1:20, 21,

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” Each member of the Godhead has spoken and has acted on my behalf. They love you too.

My desire to be with God is the desire of all Christians. Paul for example said, “for verily in this we groan, longing to be clothed upon with out habitation, which is from heaven” (II Cor. 5:2). In Heb. 11:13 Paul speaks of the Old Testament saints as having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Paul’s desire to be with God is clearly expressed in Phil. 1:23 when he said, “I am in a strait betwixt the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ which is very far better.”

Fourthly, I want to go to heaven that I might be freed from the restless sojourn of man. In heaven there will be rest from our labor (Rev. 14:13). The word for rest in the above text means refreshment. Rev. 21:4 tells us what kind of refreshment awaits the weary pilgrim of earth. No more tears in heaven. No more tears will flow down our checks unbidden when we come face to face with our own sins and unworthiness. No more tears will be shed over the sins of brethren and all the disappointments of life we have faced. No more death! No more will we go through the numbing experience of losing a loved one to death. No more shock, horror, or speechless moments when sad tidings of the grim reaper are ours to receive. No more empty days and nights. No more lonely years. No more will we stand at the bed of a loved one and watch the shadow of death creep over those who are nearest and dearest to us. No more funerals to preach and no more trips to the cemetery. How we need to go to heaven. I want to be free from a world that mourns. Think of a world free from worry and sorrow. Think of a world where men will not have to cry, wail, and shriek over families

ripped apart from divorce. Think of living in a world without killing, robbing, cheating, a world where men will never be ridiculed for failure, and an existence that will never know emptiness, meaninglessness, and hopelessness. A place where there are no pains, can you imagine it? Heaven will not know sickness. None of the inhabitants of heaven will be racked with unbearable suffering. In heaven all things will be new. In Rev. 21:5 we read, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."

Do you want to go to heaven? Are you willing to pay the cost (Lk. 14:28)? How badly do you want to stay out of hell? How badly do you want to be reunited with family and loved ones who have gone to the other side? Do you really want to see God? Do you truly want to live in a world like heaven? If you do, you'll become a Christian. A Christian is someone who has heard the Word of God. He has believed it. He has changed his conduct to conform to it. He has confessed his belief in the Christ, its central theme, and he has obeyed the author of eternal salvation that it reveals, who said, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16). Christian if you have erred from the truth, be converted, that your sins once again may be covered (Jas. 5:19-20).

Tell me, my secret soul,  
 O tell me, Hope and Faith,  
 Is there no resting--place  
 From sorrow, sin and death?  
 Is there no happy spot  
 Where mortals may be blest  
 Where grief may find a balm,  
 And weariness a rest?

Faith, Hope and Love--best boons to mortals given--  
 Waved their bright wings, and whispered:  
 Yes, in heaven!

# **PREACH HELL BROTHER!**

Robert Ingersol said, “The idea of hell is born of revenge and brutality. I have no respect for any human being who believes in it. I have no respect for any man who preaches it. I dislike this doctrine. I hate, despise, and defy it. The doctrine of hell is infamous beyond words.”

Others believe that the concept of hell should be written off as a relic of the superstitious past. The trend today is to preach a social gospel. This social gospel is made up of peace, love, goodness, and brotherhood. The social gospel excludes any preaching on the subject of hell.

The tragedy of our time is that most of those who now live, will go to hell. Yet, hell is the least discussed of all Bible subjects. Yes, most of the masses of human beings are doomed and they don't want to be disturbed. Many preachers and religious leaders are doing their best to accommodate them!



One boy was asked by his father how he liked the sermon. It was pretty good but the preacher said a bad word. To this boy hell was nothing more than a bad word. My friends preaching about hell may have cooled off, but hell is as hot as ever!

The same Bible that tells us about the wonderful heaven above, tells us about the awful hell below. The great and eternal God of heaven says loud and clear in his word, there is an eternal hell for those who reject the gospel of Christ!

Let's begin this discussion of hell by looking at three Greek words that refer to different places, even though they are all translated as hell in the King James Version of the Bible. The first word translated hell in the King James Version is, "Gehenna." This word was used to describe the Valley of Hinnom, which was a deep and narrow valley to the South of Jerusalem. In this valley the Jews worshipped idols and sacrificed children to the god Molech. This valley was also a place where garbage, trash, and bodies of animals and criminals were thrown. This garbage dump was crawling with worms. Fire and smoke from it, could always be seen ascending into the sky. Jesus must have looked at this valley and said that the place of punishment for the damned is like this. Our Lord declared in Mk. 9:47-48, "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."

The second word translated hell in the King James Version is "Hades." Hades means, "the unseen realm." Some have translated this word "as all receiving." Its Hebrew counterpart is "Sheol." Hades according to the pagans was the realm of the departed spirits. They believed it to be a shadowy, nebulous place. They also believed that Hades was divided into two parts. Elysium was the pagan name for that division of Hades reserved for the virtuous. The Bible

calls the place for the spirits of the righteous dead, Paradise. Jesus in Lk. 23:43 told the thief on the cross, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." From Lk. 16:22, we learn that the temporary home of the soul could also be called, "Abraham's bosom."

The third word translated as hell in the King James Version of the Bible, is what the Greeks and the Bible calls "Tartarus." This word is found only one time in the Bible. It is found in II Pet. 2:4 which says, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." Tartarus is a place of punishment for the spirits of the wicked dead. This is clearly taught in Lk. 16:22-28 which says, "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 (Hades) he lifted 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 are tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which 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." Remember Peter's statement in II Pet. 2:9 that declares, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."

Secondly, let's consider some reasons why we need to preach on hell. Hell needs to be discussed because it

is a Bible subject. In Acts 20:27 Paul declared that he, “shunned not to declare the whole counsel of God.” Jesus said in Mt. 4:4, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” This being true, if we are going to live forever, we need to know about the hell our Lord had spoke about when he said in Mt. 10:28, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

We need to preach on hell because of the tremendous amount of controversy that surrounds the subject of hell. There are atheists, agnostics, liberal preachers, and college professors who deny the existence of hell and eternal punishment. The Jehovahs Witnesses and the Seventh Day Adventists deny the existence of hell and teach that the wicked will be annihilated at death. Yet, John in Rev. 14:11 declares, “And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Jesus in Mt. 25:46 said, “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

We need to preach on the subject of hell to warn the sinner. Solomon tells us in Prov. 13:15 that, “the way of the transgressor is hard.” Ezk. 18:20 says, “the soul that sinneth, it shall surely die.” Men need to know the truth of Mt. 25:41 which states, “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.”

We need to preach on hell to stir up the ungrateful and lazy Christians who have forgotten the cleansing of their past sins (II Pet. 1:9). We need to preach on hell because many of those who make up the church have forgotten the commission of Jesus, who said in Mk. 16:15, -16, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is

baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be damned.” If we can get an accurate picture of hell in our minds, we’ll all work harder to win the four and one half billion souls who live on earth. Paul said in II Cor. 5:11, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also made manifest in your consciences.”

In the third place, let’s consider the effects of denying hell. If people believed that hell did not exist there would be uncontrolled sinfulness. Children who are not disciplined in the home will be stubborn and rebellious in society. In this present world men will steal and kill at will, if they believe that swift and sure punishment does not await them. In like manner with respect to the Bible, if men believe that they can live a life of sin and will not be punished eternally, men will most likely go to the limit. Many men have been deluded about punishment for sin. Solomon said in Ecc. 8:11-13, “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.”

If there is no hell, more people will commit suicide. Each minute in these United States someone attempts to take their life. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college aged young people. Many of these young people have been told by liberal preachers and college professors that there is no life after death and there is no punishment in hell. Many of the young in our universities are being taught that there is no God and that we are the product of evolution. Why shouldn’t young people take their lives? After all, what else is there? Paul in Rom. 13:9 said, “Thou shalt not kill.”

The denial of hell would worsen the already tragic

divorce situation. One out of every two teenage marriages ends in divorce. Three out of four marriages among adults do not last. The marriage laws of our nation are treated with utter contempt now. Legalized adultery runs rampant in the land. Paul wrote in Heb. 13:4, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

Certainly a denial of the existence of hell would cool off the spirit of evangelism. If there is no hell and no punishment for sin after death, why try to win souls? Frankly, men have to believe that there is something to be saved from. Jesus said in Mt. 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." We will never obey Christ if we do not believe in hell.

Finally, let's look at those who believe in hell. Jesus believed in hell. The word "hell is found twelve times in the New Testament. Eleven times it is found on the lips of Jesus. For example, Jesus in Mt. 23:33 asked religious leaders of his day, "how shall ye escape the judgement of hell?" John the Baptist believed in hell. In Mt. 3:12 he said, "the chaff shall burn up with unquenchable fire." Paul spoke of that eternal separation from God in II Thess. 1:7-9. John lists those who will inhabit hell, the lake of fire and brimstone in Rev. 21:8. Certainly the rich man in Hades believes in hell. (Lk. 16:19-31).

Most sinners know in their hearts that there is a hell. One Hollywood actor who committed suicide said he no longer found any joy in life. Before he took his life, he had a fight with his wife and shot her three times. Then he burned down his house. He left a note which said, "Tell them I'll meet them in hell." In life hell was no more than a joke, but in death, he knew as all men do,

that there has to be a hell.

Hell is not a place where man can be purged, purified, and salvaged. Hell is not a resort, a reform school, or a playground. Hell is a place of punishment!

To keep out of hell you must obey the gospel of Christ (II Thess. 1:7-9). Jesus plainly teaches, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16). If you have erred from the truth, be converted, "that your sins may be blotted out" (Jas. 5:19, 20, Acts 3:19). Only then, can heaven be your home.

Sinners, turn; why will ye die?  
 God, your Maker, asks you why:  
 God, who did your being give,  
 Made you with Himself to live:  
 He the fatal cause demands,  
 Asks the work of His own hands,  
 Why, ye thankless creatures, why  
 Will ye cross His love, and die?

Sinners, turn; why will ye die?  
 God, your Saviour, asks you why;  
 He, who did your souls retrieve,  
 Died Himself that ye might live.  
 Will ye let Him die in vain,  
 Crucify your Lord again?  
 Why, ye ransomed sinners, why  
 Will ye slight His grace, and die?

Sinners, turn; why will ye die?  
 God, the Spirit, asks you why;  
 God, who daily with you strove,  
 Wooed you to embrace His love.  
 Will ye not His grace receive?  
 Will ye still refuse to live?  
 Why, ye long-sought sinners, why  
 Will ye grieve your God, and die?

Ten thousand times ten thousand,  
In sparkling raiment bright,  
The armies of the ransomed saints  
Throng up the steeps of light;  
'Tis finished — all is finished —  
Their fight with death and sin!  
Fling open wide the golden gates,  
And let the victors in.

— *Author Unknown*

# GO TO HELL?

Sometimes people in a fit of anger, tell other people to go to hell. But if men really knew what hell was like, they would never say that. The word hell is found twelve times in the New Testament and eleven times it is used by Jesus! Jesus said in Mk. 9:43, 47-48, “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: 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 the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**” See also, (Mt. 5:22, 29, 10:28, 23:15, 33).

As we begin this lesson, let us note first of all, that hell is a place of no rest. Did you ever work to the point of utter exhaustion? Did you ever come home from that exhausting day and plop yourself down in a easy chair, enjoying a cup of coffee or a glass of tea? Better yet,



have you ever come home from a long and hard day, and just thrown yourself down on your bed sinking into the oblivion of sleep? Rest is wonderful when we are worn out. How horrible though it is to think of being perpetually exhausted and having no opportunity to rest! The prophet Isaiah said, "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, it cannot rest, its waters stir up dirt and mire, there is no peace saith my God, to the wicked" (Isa. 57:20-21). In Rev. 14:11 we learn that "the smoke of their torment goeth up forever and ever and they have no rest day or night." Rev. 20:10 lets us know, "And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever." No rest for the damned. What a contrast to the saved! "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth, yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labor, for their works do follow after them" (Rev. 14:13).

Secondly, hell is a place of no relief. The rich man in Hades cried out, "Father Abraham, send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am in anguish in this flame" (Lk. 16:24). He didn't get it! Robert Ingersol the famous atheist said if he had been there, he would have given the rich man some water. The one thing Ingersol overlooked was, the rich man didn't have to be there. He could have had ten thousand gallons of the water of life. Isa. 12:3 states, "therefore with joy, shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Rev. 22:17 invites all men to come and take of the water of life freely. The rich man like countless millions before and after him, neglected the opportunities that were his and wound up in torment with no relief.

In the third place, let us learn that hell is a place of no hope. Solomon said, "When the wicked man dieth, his expectation perisheth" (Prov. 11:7). Jesus tells us that on the judgment day, some will go away into ever-

lasting punishment (Mt. 25:46). Jesus also stated in Jno. 8:21, "if ye die in your sins, whither I go ye cannot come!" Suppose this world was a steel ball. If we could put an ant at the equator and have it travel around the steel ball which is 25,000 miles in circumference, at one-seventeenth mile per hour, just how long would it take to wear a path in the earth one half inch deep? How long would it take to wear a path completely through the earth? However long it would take, it wouldn't even be a split second in eternity. Dante in his famous poem *The Inferno* said a sign should be hung over hell's door which reads, "Those who enter this door leave all hope behind."

You know, last chance signs are all over the roads of America. Last chance for water, gas, food, a motel. We've seen these signs. We hate to pass them up because we know of the possible consequences. Many people long for a second chance. Some are given extra chances. Many expect to get another chance to obey the gospel after death, if they don't obey in this life. My friends the only hope we have, the only chance that we possess is in this life. A second chance will not come after death (Lk, 16:19-31). After death is the judgment (Heb. 9:27). There is no promise in the Bible that we will have a second chance. A second chance would make a mockery out of Jesus' death. It would take the urgency out of the great commission. A second chance would encourage men to sin and offer a false hope.

Finally, hell will be a place of divided families. In Lk. 13: 28 Jesus said, "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of God and yourselves cast out." We learn from Lk. 16:27-28 that the rich man 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 come to this place of torment also."

I once read the story of a couple in Idaho who had

been married for eighty years. They had three sons, fifteen grandchildren, fifty-one great grandchildren, fifty-one great, great, grandchildren. I do not know what their spiritual condition was. Let's say that one was saved and one was lost. This would mean that after eighty years of wedded bliss they would be eternally separated.

But this is not all, if we die without Christ, we will experience separation even from unsaved loved ones. We will not know and enjoy in hell, the fellowship and companionship that we have known in this life. How could we? Hell is a place of "darkness" (Mt. 25:30). Hell is a place of "constant torment" (Rev. 14:10). Hell is a "lake that burneth with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21:8).

In Amos 4:12 God's prophet said, "Prepare to meet thy God." The only way to make sure that you'll be ready to meet God is to try to stay out of hell. Once you get into hell you can't get out. You may deny the fact of hell but that doesn't destroy hell. Fire will burn whether we believe it or not. Poison will kill whether we believe it or not. Frost freezes whether we believe it or not. Hell is real whether we believe it or not. So I beg you to believe in Jesus, repent of your sins, make the good confession, and be baptized. Jesus said that, "ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (Jno. 8:24). Our Lord declared, "I tell you Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3). Christ stated, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father in heaven" (Mt. 10:32-33). Our Saviour said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). This is the only way to make Jesus your Saviour. If you are an erring Christian, hell will be your home, if you don't turn back to Jesus. Peter declares in II Pet. 2:20, 21, it would

have been better for you to have never known the way of righteousness, because the latter end with you will be worse than the first. It's either turn or burn!

Come, poor sinner, seek salvation,  
Jesus waits to put you right;  
Do not give that dreadful answer,  
"I'll be saved, but not tonight;  
Give me just a little longer,  
For this world seems, oh! so bright.  
When I feel that I am dying,  
I'll be saved, but not tonight."

Oh, how vain is the delusion  
That the Lord your time will wait,  
Millions now are lost forever,  
Shut without the Golden Gate;  
Once the Saviour spake and bade them  
Enter in His perfect light;  
But, like you, they answered softly,  
"I'll be saved, but not tonight."

When the judgment overtakes you,  
How those words will stand in sight,  
When they prayed and pleaded with you,  
And you answered, "Not tonight";  
Then will be the time, my brother,  
When you stand at death's cold brink,  
When your soul is lost forever,  
Without Christ you're sure to sink.

IT IS SAID OF THOSE LISTED AS CHURCH MEMBERS THAT . . . . .

- 10% cannot be found;
- 20% never attend a single service;
- 25% admit that they never pray;
- 30% never read the Bible even a little;
- 40% never give to any church cause;
- 50% never attend the evening service;
- 60% give nothing to missions or world evangelism;
- 75% assume no responsibility in the church;
- 85% never attend mid-week prayer meeting;
- 95% never win a soul to Christ;

But 100% expect to go to heaven when they die.

# HELL IS NO JOKE

Hell is no joke! Yet, the subject of hell ranks high on the jokester's hit parade. The Devil is featured in a suit of red underwear. He has horns growing out of his head and a pitchfork in his hand. The Devil is often pictured as boss, ordering the demons to shovel more coal into the eternal fires of hell. Men are often shown lined up to purchase asbestos suits before they go through the door of hell. Many other colorful and funny stories may evoke gales of laughter, but hell is no joke! Hell is no joke when you consider that Jesus had more to say about hell than he ever had to say about heaven! Jesus said, "but I say unto you that whosoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of the judgment, and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council, but whosoever shall say, thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire" (Mt. 5:22). In Mt. 5:29 we are told, to pluck out the offending eye, that the whole body be spared from hell. In Mt.

10:28 Jesus tells us, to fear not man, but himself, for our Lord alone can destroy body and soul in hell. The religious leaders of Jesus day could not escape the fires of hell (Mt. 23:15, 33). In Mk. 9:47-48 Jesus said, hell fire, where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. Hell is a matter that should be soberly and seriously considered with reference to its reality and nature. What is hell like?

First of all hell is eternal. Jesus declared of the doomed, "these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal" (Mt. 25:46). Rom. 16:26 talks about, "the everlasting God." Heb. 9:14 mentions the "eternal Spirit." In these three passages are four expressions, "everlasting punishment, eternal life, everlasting God, and eternal Spirit." The only difference between the words everlasting and eternal is the spelling in the English language. The word in the Greek language is "aionos," which means, "eternal, everlasting, without end, never to cease, indeterminate as to duration."

There is not one argument which a man can make against hell that cannot be made with equal force against heaven. If hell lasts a thousand years then heaven will last a thousand years. If the wicked cease to be punished, then God the Father ceases to exist. You see, the same word is used to describe the duration of heaven and the existence of God. How long is hell? Forever! "The smoke of their torment goeth up forever and ever" (Rev. 14:11).

Someone might say that hell is too long. It's not right to take a man who had lived for five years in disobedience and send him forever to hell. On the other hand we could reason that it wouldn't be right to take a man who has lived for God five years and give him an eternal home. Hell is too ugly. Well then heaven is too beautiful! Hell is too horrible! Heaven then is too wonderful!

Hell is eternal. Speaking of those who know not God

and who obey not the gospel, Paul said, "they shall suffer punishment, even everlasting destruction from the face of the Lord and the glory of his might" (II Thess. 1:7-9).

Secondly, hell is a place of darkness. In Mt. 25:30 we are told, "That the unprofitable servant shall be cast into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." In II Pet. 2:4 we learn, "that angels that sinned were cast down to hell and committed to pits of darkness." For the wicked, "the blackness of darkness is reserved" (Jude :13). Note if you will, that hell is not just a place of darkness. Hell is a pit of darkness! Hell is the blackness of darkness! Hell is a place of outer darkness!

Imagine being in a place where the light of the stars and the glow of dawn will never be seen. Think of being in a place where you cannot go over and flip on a switch and flood the room with light. Hell will be a place where there is no day. In hell it will be night forever.

I once read of a lady who taught her parrot to say goodnight when she covered its cage. The bird said good morning when the cage was uncovered. One day the bird got out of its cage and had a fight with the family cat. The bird had its eyes clawed out. That night the parrot said "goodnight" when its cage was covered. In the morning when the cage was uncovered the parrot said "goodnight!" In hell men will never say good morning, for hell will be one eternal night.

Have you ever been in total darkness? Does not the blackness of night, total darkness, seem so thick that you could slice it with a knife? Do you recall the fear and apprehension that fell on you? Do you remember as a child your fear of the dark? Do you remember hearing strange sounds that caused you to be so afraid you couldn't breathe or move? Did not your heart beat go so fast that it seemed like your chest could not contain it?

Imagine being in a place of total darkness, in a degree of blackness which you have never known



before. In your ears suddenly are sounds of anguish, sounds of a massive, roaring, blazing fire. Think of hearing the sounds of wailing and the gnashing of teeth. Think about hearing cries of pain coming from an incalculable number of human bodies that seem to be in the process of being cut up into thousands of pieces. How horrible to know that these who cry out cannot die. They cannot be relieved from their pain and anguish. Hell is not a nightmare, a bad dream, or fiction. Hell is a place of darkness because God who is light (I Jno. 1:5), will not be there.

In the third place, hell will be a place of fire, smoke and brimstone. John the Baptist said, "the chaff will be burned with unquenchable fire" (Mt. 3:12). Jesus tells us that the lost will be "cast into the furnace of fire" (Mt. 13:42). Jesus also says to those on the left hand, "depart from me ye cursed into the everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels." Hell according to Rev. 20:15, "is a lake of fire and brimstone." Marshal Keeble said, "that if you could build the hottest fire on earth and then take man out of the fire of hell and put him in the fires of earth, he would freeze to death in three seconds!" I think he was right!

How can hell be a place of fire and yet a place of darkness? Well if God in Exodus the third chapter could cause a bush to burn and not burn up, he can create fire that will not give off light. Man has been able to do this for quite a while.

Hell will be a place of smoke. In Rev. 14:11, we are told, "that the smoke of their torment goeth up forever and ever." There will be smoke because there is fire. There will be smoke because men will char, roast, toast, fry, sizzle, and burn in hell!

There will be brimstone in hell. God destroyed the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone. The writer Jude tells us, "that they were set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire" (Jude :7). Hell is called the "lake of fire

and brimstone” in Rev. 20:10 and Rev. 21:8.

The region around the Dead Sea abounds in sulphuric brimstone. Brimstone is a highly flammable substance. Brimstone lets off nauseating and suffocating fumes. Think of inhaling these fumes forever! Eternal nausea and suffocation will characterize hell’s inhabitants.

Finally, hell is a place of pain. The pain of hell will produce unspeakable sorrow. There will be no joy, no laughter, to echo down the corridors of hell. Jesus tells us that he can, “destroy both body and soul in hell” (Mt. 10:28). The word “destroy” means, “to utterly destroy, to ruin.” This word does not mean extinction, but a loss of well being. Hell will be so painful that “there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mt. 13:41, 42). This pain will be “everlasting” (Mt. 25:46). Hell will be a place of pain because it’s a place where the worm dieth not. Hell will be a place where men will feel a gnawing or cutting sensation because of the worms (Mk 9:47-48). II Thess. 1:9 tells us that the lost will, “suffer punishment, even everlasting destruction.” The word “punishment” is a judicial word. The word “destruction” in this text means, “the loss of all that gives value and worth to human existence.” In Rev. 17:10 we are told that those who inhabit hell will be “tormented.” The word “torment” means, “to vex or grieve with pain.” What a horrible fog of gloom, grief, and indescribable woe, hangs over the chambers of eternal night!

Jonathan Edwards a well known preacher of the past said, “the bow of God’s wrath is bent, the arrow is made ready on the string, justice bends the arrow at your heart and strains the bow, it is nothing but the mere pleasure of an angry God that keeps the arrow from being made drunk with your blood.”

If you do not want hell to be your everlasting home, then you need to become a child of God! You must be born again. John declares that “Jesus answered and

said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jno. 3:3-5). Paul states, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Tit. 3:5). Paul to the Corinthians said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17). To the Galatians Paul wrote, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27). If heaven is to be your home you must overcome. Jesus said, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Rev. 2:7). Our Lord through John said, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels" (Rev. 3:5). You must be faithful even unto death if you want the crown of life. "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). If you do not heed these Biblical admonitions you will spend eternity in hell.

No one can even begin to fathom the height, depth, length or breath of eternity. Gibbons well expressed it for us all when he wrote those lines of wisdom:

What is eternity? can aught  
Paint its duration to the thought?  
Tell all the sand the ocean laves,  
Tell all its changes, all its waves,  
Or tell with more laborious pains,  
The drops its might mass contains;  
Be this astonishing account  
Augmented with the full amount  
Of all the drops that clouds have shed,  
Where'er their wat'ry fleeces spread,  
Through all time's long protracted tour,  
From Adam to the present hour;--  
Still short the sum, nor can it vie  
With the more numerous years that lie  
Embossed in eternity.  
Attend, O man, with awe divine,  
For this eternity is thine.

## **JUST THINK**

- Of stepping on shore  
and finding it Heaven;
- Of taking hold of a hand  
and finding it God's hand;
- Of breathing a new air  
and finding it Celestial air;
- Of feeling invigorated  
and finding it immortality;
- Of passing from storm and tempest  
to an unbroken calm;
- Of waking up —  
and finding it Home!

— *Author Unknown*

# THE HORRORS OF HELL

Did you ever hear a person say, I don't believe in hell? God is a God of love, say some, and so he would never send anyone to a place like hell. However, if you ask these same people if they believe in heaven they will say yes. When you ask them for their source of information about heaven, they will say the Bible of course! The same Bible that tells us about heaven also tells us about hell. What does the Bible say about hell?

First of all, the Bible teaches that if you go to hell you will associate with the wicked of all ages. While I was a student at Freed-Hardeman College you might say I lived in a world within a world. When school was out I would have to go back out into the real world. In the real world I would have to associate with people who would constantly take God's name in vain. It was truly upsetting to have to be with people who did not love God and his word. Think of what it will be like to be in hell with people like those listed in the Bible. Jesus tells

us that hell was prepared for the Devil and his angels in Mt. 25:41. The Devil and the demons will not control hell, they will burn in hell like all of the damned. John tells us that the beast and the false prophet will be in hell (Rev. 20:10). John gives us another list of those who will populate hell in Rev. 21:8 which says, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Hell will be populated with people like Ahab and Jezebel, Herod, Judas Iscariot, Demas, Nero Caesar, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, John Dillinger, Al Capone, Lee Harvey Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan. People like the Viet Cong, the Irish Republican Army, Symbianese Liberation Army, will be in hell. Hell will be full of atheists, agnostics, skeptics, extremists of every sort imaginable. If men die unsaved they will wallow in eternities' garbage dump forever!

Secondly, hell will be a place of unsatisfied desires. There will not be anything in hell that will satisfy. There will be nothing to satisfy the lustful cravings of the damned. That these sinful desires will still be with the doomed can be seen in Rev. 22:11 which states, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

My friends, appetites now fed will cry out for appeasement throughout eternity. Passion will run wild but never find any gratification. Hell will be a place where Belshazzar will have no wine. Ahab will not have Naboth's vineyard. There will be no Druscilla for Felix. There will be no Herodias for Herod. No silver will be available for Judas. There will be no drugs for the drug addicts. There will be no tobacco for the cigarette smoking, snuff dipping, tobacco spitting,

cigar munching crowd. There will be no social ladders to climb in hell. No political power will be around for the power hungry.

A man and his wife in Houston, Texas supposedly left home for a vacation. The blinds were drawn, papers and milk bottles kept piling up on the porch. Two months later one of the neighbors heard noises in the house. The neighbors called the police who broke into the house. They found in the house all kinds of debris. There were bottles and garbage all over the floors. The man of the house was found naked on the floor. He was crawling on his hands and knees saying, "forward men." He was drunk. Upstairs was his wife in the only clean room in the house. She was on her knees as if she had been praying. She had been dead about four hours. The man downstairs died about two hours later of acute alcoholism. A friend of this couple said, for two months a taxi driver brought whiskey to the house everyday. Over two hundred whiskey bottles were found in the house. This couple drank three or four a day for sixty days. My friends there will be no whiskey in hell. Remember the words of Paul who said in Ga. 6:7-8, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

In the third place, let us learn that hell is a place where men will have a bitter, biting, burning, remorseful, guilty conscience! Here in the United States someone attempts to commit suicide every minute. People choose to do this instead of facing shame or utter despair. So men seeking to escape their consciences will jump off a bridge or put a gun to their head and pull the trigger.

Can you imagine the shock of finding out that in death, Hades and in Hell, men will retain their mental faculties? Men will be able to see after death. Lk. 16:23



says, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." Men will be able to feel anguish after death (Lk. 16:24). Human beings can hear after death (Lk. 16:25). Memory will also be retained after death, for the rich man in Lk. 16:28 said, "For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."

If you die as a non-Christian, you'll remember the opportunities that you had to become a child of God. You'll remember sermons you have heard. You will be haunted forever by the casual and indifferent manner that you rejected the invitation of Christ time after time. Unforgiven sins once forgotten like skeletons coming out of the closets will torment your conscience forever and ever.

If you die as an erring Christian, you'll have all eternity to regret your failure to live for Jesus. Forever and ever you'll remember and curse yourself because of your procrastination.

My friends, the theme song of hell will be "It might have been." The road to hell will indeed be paved with good intentions. In hell, men will know the truth of Moses' statement, "be sure your sins will find you out" (Num. 32:23).

Finally, hell will be a place of eternal death. James 2:26 tells us that physical death is the separation of the body and spirit. Eternal death is the separation of our spirits from God. Our spirits will be forever separated from God by sin. Isa. 59:1-2 teaches us, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Our sins can be forgiven only when we obey the gospel. If we do not obey the gospel, we will undergo what Paul describes in II Thess. 1:7-9 which declares, "And to you who are troubled rest with us,

when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

This separation from God, this eternal death, is called by John in Rev. 20:14 “the second death.” Nothing could be worse than being separated from God. Listen to the cry of Jesus on the cross, “my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Mt. 27:46). If Jesus reacted in this way after being separated from the Father for six hours, what about us?

Isaiah asks, “who among us can dwell with the devouring fire, who among us can dwell with the everlasting burnings?” (Isa. 33:14). The answer is, no one! You can’t live in hell, for hell is a place of eternal death.

The torments of hell are so terrible that God does not want a single soul to go there. Ezk. 33:11 says, “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn away from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” In I Tim. 2:4 Paul declared, “Who will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth.” Peter teaches us in II Pet. 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” Hell is so horrible that God sent his own Son to die for us that we might escape his wrath (Rom. 5:8, 9). Hell is so awful that God established his church and gave us his word to lead us away from it (I Tim. 3:15, Jno. 12:48). To keep us out of hell God told us about the beauty of heaven and the nightmare of hell (Rev. 21-22, Lk. 16:19-31).

Won’t you become a Christian like the Corinthians?

“Many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:28). If you are an unfaithful child of God, turn from your willful sin and the punishment that surely awaits you (Heb. 10:26-31).

Several years ago in a Detroit newspaper there was a story about a government employee. He was transferred from a place called Hell, Michigan to a place called Paradise. The news story said, “Man Leaves Hell for Paradise.” That may have happened in Michigan but it won’t happen in the next world.

It is still true that folks who expect to claim salvation at the eleventh hour usually die at ten-thirty. Postponement is persistently perilous! Proverbs 27:1 warns, “Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” And Proverbs 29:1 makes the matter even more urgent when it says, “He that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

# WHO'S WHO IN HELL

In many high school and college year books there is a section called the "Who's Who." Every library in the nation probably has a copy of Who's Who in America. It might interest you to know that the Devil has his own list found in Rev. 21:8. John in giving the Devil's list says, "but for the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable, and murderers and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." At first glance we might not think that any of us are on this list. Look again! Let's take a detailed look.

First notice if you will, the fearful head the list. The word "fearful" has been rendered cowards by some. Many of the Christians who lived in the latter half of the first century denied Jesus and confessed Caesar as Lord. One of the great problems in the second century church was what to do with those who renounced their

faith in Christ. The Christian like the turtle must stick his neck out if he is to make progress. We cannot be paralyzed by fear. Paul in II Tim. 1:7 said, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear." As soldiers in the army of Jesus, we must learn to suffer hardship. We must learn to endure (II Tim. 2:3-4, 12). We can overcome fear through love. John said, "perfect love casteth out fear" (I Jno. 4:18). We can overcome fear with faith, for it will give us victory in our struggle with the world (I Jno. 5:4). Jesus said, "fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Mt. 10:28). If we are afraid to confess Jesus before men, he will deny us before the Father (Mt. 10:32, 33). If we are ashamed of Christ and his word, he will be ashamed of us at his second coming (Mk. 8:38). Let us not then fear the society in which we live to the extent that we become like it. Let's never be ashamed to pray in public. Never let fear keep you from door knocking and personal work. Fear keeps too many from making a personal commitment to God. Fear can be overcome not only through love and faith but also through an intimate relationship with Jesus. Acts 4:13 tells us, "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Secondly, the unbelieving are on the Devil's list. The word "unbelieving" means faithless. It can refer to the pagan. But what about the Christian? Are we not often faithless? The Apostles said to Jesus, "Lord increase our faith" (Lk. 17:5). Jesus of course often rebuked men for their little faith. We can increase our faith by praying to Jesus Christ, as did the Apostles. We can also turn to God's Word. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Faith can also grow when it is exercised. James 2:17 tells us, "Faith without works is dead." Paul in I Thess. 1:3 told the church that he "remembered without ceasing

their work of faith." We must believe, "for without faith it is impossible to be pleasing unto him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder to them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

In the third place, the abominable are on the list of Satan. The abominable are the defiled. Paul said, "wherefore, come ye out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will be unto you a father and ye shall be unto me as sons and daughters, saith the Lord almighty" (II Cor. 6:17, 18). Then in II Cor. 7:1 Paul declares, "Having therefore these promises beloved, let us cleanse ourselves of all defilement of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." This means that we are to remain "unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27). In Rev. 21:27 we read, "there shall in no wise enter into it, anything unclean or he that maketh an abomination or a lie."

Fourthly, murderers are on the Who's Who list. One of the Ten Commandments carried over into the New Testament is, "Thou shalt not kill" (Rom. 13:9). We would never want to take the life of another human being. Yet, we can still be murderers. In I Jno. 3:15 we learn, "whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." No wonder Jesus teaches us to love each other, our neighbors, and even our enemies" (Jno. 13:34-35, Mt. 22:39, Mt. 5:44-45).

In the fifth place, fornicators rank high on the Devil's list. Fornication is a word that can refer to immorality in general. It also refers to illicit sexual relations by single persons and to having illicit sexual relations with married persons. Two married persons having sexual relations who are not married to each other commit fornication. Fornication and adultery are often used interchangeably. Fornication is the only Biblical reason for divorce. Jesus said in Mt. 19:9, "I say unto you,

whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery." Paul said, "the body is not for fornication but for the Lord, flee fornication" (I Cor. 6:13, 18). Now we would never engage in the physical act of fornication and yet we can be guilty! Jesus in Mt. 5:28 says, "But I say unto you that everyone that looketh upon a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her, already in his heart."

In the sixth place, sorcerers will populate hell. The word "sorcery" refers to the use of magic or witchcraft. This word is also translated as "enchanters and astrologers." The sorcerer uses potions, drugs, spells, and enchantments in his wicked work. Sorcery or witchcraft is condemned by Paul as one of the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:20). Under the Old Testament law the sorcerer was to be put to death (Ex. 22:18). We may not practice witchcraft but I wonder whether our fascination with the occult is not condemned in this word. I wonder too, if the misuse of drugs in our world is not indirectly covered by the words sorcery or witchcraft. Horoscope readers had better know that they too may well be condemned by this word. Man's destiny is not determined by stars and planets but by his Maker!

Then there are idolaters. An idolater is one who worships an image which represents a false god. When Paul came to Athens his spirit was provoked within him as he beheld the city full of idols (Acts 17:16). We would never worship an image but we can still be guilty of idolatry. Jesus said, "take heed and beware of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Lk. 12:15). In Col. 3:5 we are told that covetousness is idolatry. So, let us say with John, "my little children, let us guard ourselves from idols" (I Jno. 5:21).

Finally, liars are important people to the old serpent. Solomon said in Prov. 12:22, "lying lips are an

abomination unto Jehovah.” Peter declared, “he that would love life and see good days let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile” (I Pet. 3:10). We of course can lie with our lives as well as our tongues. To Titus Paul wrote, “they profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Tit. 1:16). Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of his day for a failure to practice what they preached (Mt. 23:3).

Have you made the Devil's Who's Who list? If you are on the list, you are on your way to hell! If the sins of our text characterize you, why not let the blood of Jesus wash them away? John states, “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5). Ananias told Paul, “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). If you are a Christian and somehow now find yourself on this list, won't you walk again in the light, so that Jesus' blood can cleanse you of your sins? (I Jno. 1:7).



## STACY PUBLICATIONS

- Sermons on Heaven and Hell**, John Stacy, \$5.00.  
**Citizens of Eternity**, Sermons on Angels, Demons, and Satan, John Stacy, Paper, \$2.50.  
**Exhort Brother!** John Stacy, Paper, \$3.50.  
**Now Abideth These Three, Faith, Hope, and Charity**, John Stacy, \$3.00.  
**Sermons on the Ten Commandments**, John Stacy, Cloth, \$5.00.  
**Stacy's Sermons (Full Content Outlines) in Series**, John Stacy, Cloth, \$6.00.  
**Harvest Time Sermons**, Jim Huffman, Paper, \$3.50.  
**Messianic Psalms and Other Sermons**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Preaching Through Revelation**, John Stacy, Cloth, \$7.00; Paper, \$5.00.  
**Preaching Through Galatians**, John Stacy, Paper, \$4.50.  
**Preaching Through Ecclesiastes**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Preaching the Basics**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Gospel Sermons You Must Preach**, Vol. 1, John Stacy, Paper, \$6.00.  
**Gospel Sermons You Must Preach**, Vol. 2, John Stacy, Paper, \$6.00.  
**Sermons That Draw a Line**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Recipe for Revival**, John Stacy, Paper, \$6.00.  
**God's Message for Modern Man**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Sermons From Songs**, John Stacy, Paper, \$4.00.  
**Prime Rib**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Jesus Bore It All**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**The Ancient Gospel**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**The Valley of Dry Bones**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Evangelize, Evangelize!** John Stacy, Paper, \$6.00.

Order From:  
STACY PUBLICATIONS  
Rt. 2, Box 53  
Newbern, Tennessee 38059  
Phone (901) 627-9427