

Soul Winning: The Christian's Business

by

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Chapter Six

Hated Hell

"Of course I believe in GOD, but I certainly don't believe I have to be saved. What from? I don't believe a loving GOD would create a hell and send men there for eternity."

The speaker was a well educated man, wise in his own conceit. He expressed the unbelief of many people; enough of them so the soul-winner has to know the answer to this problem. Some people dare not believe in hell. Too many of them know that if there is a hell, they are headed in that direction and, therefore, they close their mind to the truth.

The Bible teaches plainly that there is a hell.

In the Old Testament it says, "**The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God**" (Psalm 9:17). The most wonderful man that ever lived, the Lord Jesus CHRIST, believed in hell. He stated, "**Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire**" (Matthew 25:41). He often spoke of hell, saying such things as, "**Be not afraid of them who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell**" (Luke 12:4, 5).

Once when speaking to the Pharisees, or religious ritualists of His day, the Lord briefly described hell. He told of a selfish rich man who died, "**And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments**" (Luke 16:23).

Hell is the logical counterpart to Heaven. Sinners would not be happy in Heaven. They dislike church and churchgoers here, jeering them as psalm singers. How then could they be happy in Heaven where the saints worship and praise the Lord for ever and ever?

You cannot tell an unbeliever what hell is like, but certainly aspects of it are known. It is described as "**Fire**" (Matthew 5:22). Seven times in Matthew and Luke it is described as

darkness. **"There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"** (Matthew 8:12). And it would be fearful to be in utter darkness.

The punishment, whatever it is, is eternal. **"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 for ever and ever"** (Revelation 20:10).

In nearly every instance, the length of the sinner's sojourn in hell is contrasted with the believer's sojourn in Heaven.

Often when you discuss hell with an unbeliever, the man will insist, "I don't believe a merciful GOD would send men to hell. The Lord said hell was **'prepared for the devil and his angels'** (Matthew 25:41). Hell was not prepared for men. GOD does not want men to go to hell. Scripture says, **'For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the LORD God; wherefore turn ye yourselves, and live ye'**" (Ezekiel 18:32).

GOD is a GOD of love, but He is also a holy GOD. Once men see the holiness of GOD, they will see that hell is a just punishment for sin, and be thankful that GOD has provided a way of escape!

~ end of chapter 6 ~

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