
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What is hell like?**

Although hell is not a pleasant subject, it is nonetheless in the Bible. God wanted all men to know the punishment that awaits everyone who would turn their backs on Him and His Law.

Interestingly, the Scriptures teach that hell was not originally made for wicked men. Rather, the Bible says hell was originally prepared for the Devil:

Matthew 25:41

41 "Then [the king] will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

How sobering it really is to remember that if men refuse to obey God's law, they shall find themselves in a hell prepared, not for men, but for the Devil and his angels!

THE BIBLE DESCRIPTION OF HELL

The Bible has a lot of things to say about hell. To help men realize how terrible it really is, God used earthly things which we are familiar with in order to describe what hell is really like.

(1) Hell is eternal -- everlasting.

This words "eternal," or "everlasting" are used to describe both heaven and hell.

Matthew 25:46

46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The punishment in hell for wicked men will last as long as the joyous life in heaven for righteous men. The very same word "eternal" and "everlasting" are used to describe both places. The agony and pain of hell will never stop.

(2) Hell is a place of darkness.

Matthew 25:30

30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the **outer darkness**. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

There is in most men an innate fear of darkness. Hell will be a fearful place because it is a place of utter darkness.

(3) Hell is a place of fire.

Mt 13:42 -- a furnace of fire
25:41 -- everlasting fire
Mk 9:44-45 -- fire that is not quenched
Rev 20:10 -- fire and brimstone
20:15 -- a lake of fire
Mt 3:12 -- a baptism in fire

No doubt being in hell will be far worse than the fire we know on earth, but fire here on earth is the closest thing that God knew of to describe it to us.

When you think of fire, you think of smoke and so the Scriptures say:

Revelation 14:11

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, ...

(4) Hell is a place of suffering and pain.

Revelation 20:10

10 ... they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 14:11

11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; ...

A person can be tormented only when he is conscious. If a man ever becomes unconscious he is no longer aware of pain. Therefore, when the Bible says men are tormented in hell "day and night for ever and ever," it is implied that hell is a place of unending, conscious torment.

(5) There will be no rest in hell.

Revelation 14:11

11 ... they have no rest day or night, ...

Why can men and women not rest in hell? Because they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever! There will never be even a short span of time in which men and women may have rest from their pain and misery.

(6) There is no hope in hell.

Sometimes we are able to endure misery and pain only because we have hope that someday things will get better.

But in hell there is no hope, no escape, no rest day or night! After men and women have spent ten million years in hell, they have no less time to stay than when they first began!

(7) Hell is a place of bad memories.

In hell men and women will retain their memories. In Luke 16 Jesus tells of a rich man who went to hell and this man was able to remember his friends, his enemies, his family and all his sinful deeds.

The memories of this life will make hell even worse for the men and women who go there. They will always remember the opportunities they had to obey God and they will remember how they turned their backs on Him.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, please remember that there's a great Judgment Day coming in which we must all stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. There will be nothing to distort justice then. There will be no "loopholes" available to escape justice. The Judge cannot be bribed; He will not be wrong in His decision and He will not change the verdict.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

7 ... the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,
8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

If you have never "obeyed the gospel" of the Lord Jesus Christ, you must:

- Believe
- Repent
- Confess
- Be baptized

If you would obey these simple steps, and remain faithful to the Lord, He would be your Saviour and take you to heaven on that final day.