

“All About Hell”

(Luke 16:19-31)

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I. Introduction

A. The First Lie

1. Life in the Garden of Eden

a. Genesis 3:1-5

(1) Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

(2) The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, (3) but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it or you will die.’”

(4) “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. (5) “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

2. The first lie....there is no death

B. The Final Lie

1. II Thessalonians 2:10-11

(10) They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (11) For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.

2. What will that lie be?

C. The Latest Lie

1. Nobody will spend eternity in hell

2. Very wide spread

3. Various versions have been around forever

- a. Annihilation
 - 1. At death or after some time in Hell
- b. Reincarnation
 - 1. Like the movie “Groundhog Day”
 - 2. Keep coming back until you get it right
- c. Universalism
 - 1. All religions lead to Heaven
- 4. The latest twist says “There is no hurry”
 - a. All will eventually make it to heaven
 - b. Hell is a state of mind
 - c. “Postmortem Salvation”
 - d. “Purgatory for the unsaved”
 - e. Till they finally yield to God
- 5. Don’t worry...Love eventually wins
- 6. The danger
 - a. What if its not true?
 - 1. And based on God’s word...it isn’t
 - b. Your family members dying without Christ
 - 1. Thinking they’ll get chances after death
 - c. Takes away the urgency of evangelism
 - 1. Terry and his daughter’s salvation
- 7. My purpose today
 - a. Will try to be kind as I “*Speak the truth in love*”

b. For us...*it's personal*

1. Dozens of friends and family in distress

c. I don't want to appear mean

8. Yet my calling is to guard the people entrusted to me

a. Love warns of dangerous untruths

9. Shame on those pastors who are afraid of offending with the truth

D. Last week....the two thieves on the crosses (Luke 23)

1. Where did they go when they died?

a. Their bodies thrown into a cheap grave

b. But what about their souls?

2. We know that the one thief went to a place called "Paradise"

a. Where exactly is that?

b. And, where did the other thief go?

3. Life's single most important question

a. Where will you go after you die?

E. Questions regarding hell

a. Is there a literal hell?

b. Would a loving God send and keep people there forever?

1. Or just a period of time

c. Is hell filled with literal fire?

F. My struggle with how to tackle the issue?

1. Enough material to do a ten-part series

a. Not going to do that

- b. A brief look at God's opinion on the matter
- 2. So, what did Jesus say about hell?
 - a. Actually spoke more about hell than about heaven
 - b. One of the best looks in Luke 16

II. Text...Luke 16:19-31

A. Background

- 1. Jesus is teaching prior to his death, burial and resurrection
 - a. Used in "Love Wins" to prove universal salvation
- 2. You be the judge

B. Truths from the mouth of Jesus (Luke 16:19-31)

(19) There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. (20) At his gate was laid a beggar name Lazarus, covered with sores (21) and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

(22) The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side (Abraham's Bosom).

#1 Our souls live on after our bodies die

- a. The beggar carried to Abraham's side
 - 1. Same as "Paradise" for the thief on the cross
 - 2. Where the souls of the righteous awaited the resurrection of Jesus
- b. But what about the rich guy?

(22) The rich man also died and was buried. (23) In hell (Hades), where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. (24) So he called to him, "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire."

- a. His body was buried...but his soul was in hell

#2 There are two distinct places for the dead

- a. Abraham's Bosom and Hades

#3 Hell (Hades) is a place of suffering

- a. (23) *In hell (Hades), where he was in agony*

#4 The unrighteous can see what they have missed

#5 Our eternal state is determined by what we do in this life

(25) But Abraham replied, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony."

- a. Jesus has been speaking to them about righteousness
- b. This was not about wealth making a man unrighteous
- c. The beggars relationship with God
- d. God is fair

#6 There's no exit out of hell

(26) And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us."

- a. Could see across...but not cross
- b. Hell is best described as separation from God

#7 Hades is the holding tank for the eternal hell

a. Hades (hah' dace)

1. The term used here
2. Only used in the NT to refer to the place of the wicked prior to final judgment in eternal hell
3. Souls of the unrighteous awaiting the final judgment
4. And they are in torment

5. At the “Great White Throne of Judgment,” Death and Hades will be cast into *the Lake of Fire*

a. Revelation 20:14

b. The Lake of Fire

1. The Great White Throne of Judgment (Revelation 20:13-14)

a. Names not in the “Book of Life”

b. Cast into the “Lake of Fire” which burns forever

2. Satan, the Beast and False Prophet

3. The eternal hell

4. Ignored in “Love Wins”

c. Sheol

1. The Old Testament Hebrew word for “*Hades*”

2. Used to refer to the realm of the dead in general

c. Gehenna

1. Mark 9:47

2. Translated “hell”

3. Means “The Valley of Hinnom”

1. A dump where they burned their trash

2. And the fire never went out

4. Synonymous with “The Lake of Fire” or Hell

d. The Abyss

1. Holding tank for Satan and some demons

e. Tartarus

#8 There’s a place of great comfort for the righteous

(22) The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side (Abraham's Bosom).

- a. Abraham's Bosom
 - 1. Same as "Paradise"
 - 2. A place of great comfort
- b. The souls of the righteous prior to resurrection of Jesus
- c. The righteous receive an angelic escort
 - 1. Souls carried by angels to Abraham's Bosom
- d. Jesus to the thief on the cross (Luke 23:43)
 - 1. ***Today you will be with me in Paradise***
 - 2. To Paradise....and then to heaven...when Christ arose
 - 3. May be referred to in Ephesians 4:8

(8) That is why it says: "When Jesus ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

- 4. Brought the OT saints out of Paradise and into heaven
- g. We do know that Heaven is where Jesus is
 - 1. Where I will go upon death
- h. We know that it is a place of comfort
 - 1. Philippians 1:21-24

(21) For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. (22) If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! (23) I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; (24) but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

#9 God has reached out to all

(27) He answered, "Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, (28) for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."

(29) Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.”

(30) “No, father Abraham,” he said, “but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.”

(31) He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”

a. No post-mortem salvation

b. Love Wins take

1. In the same place, but his attitude has made it a hell

a. Wanted the beggar to serve him water

2. Chasm is an attitude problem

3. Will eventually change his mind and it will be paradise

c. You decide

C. Some additional truths from the Bible

#10 Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41)

#11 Hell will last forever (Matthew 25:46)

#12 Hell involves eternal separation from God (II Thess. 1:9)

(9) They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

#13 Jesus is the only way to Heaven (John 14:6)

a. John 14:6

(6) Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

b. Mark Driscoll of Mars Hill in Seattle

“No one comes to the Father but by me, No one. No one. Buddhism...no, Hinduism...no, New Ageism...no, Jehovah’s Witnessism...no, Nice people...no, Good people...no, Generous people...no, Religious people...no.

#14 There are no more chances after death (Hebrews 9:27)

(27) Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment

a. Mark Driscoll

“your eternal destiny is sealed upon your death. This life is your only opportunity”

b. People get plenty of second chances while still alive

c. Our job is very clear

1. Share the good news now!

#15 God will treat each sinner fairly (Rev. 20:11-15)

a. When “the books” are opened in Rev. 20:11-15

b. The wise judge

c. Jesus died for the original sin of all mankind

#16 Hell will be more tolerable for some (Luke 12:48)

a. “To whom much has been given, much will be required”

b. What about those who know very little

c. Franklin Graham and Bill Riley

1. Holocaust Jews

d. Later

#17 We may have a somewhat distorted view of hell

a. The Jonathon Edwards effect

1. “Sinners in the hands of an angry God”

b. Sometimes figurative speech

1. Leaders like Calvin and Luther

2. Different images

c. Norman Geisler

The figures of speech that describe hell are contradictory if taken in a physical sense. It has flames, yet is outer darkness. It is a dump with a bottom, yet a bottomless pit. While everything in the Bible is literally true, not everything is true literally.

#18 God has revealed himself to all mankind (LATER)

a. Creation

1. Romans 1:19-20

(19) Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

2. Acts 14:17

(17) Yet God has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons' he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

3. Psalm 19:1-4

(1) The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands

b. Conscience

1. Romans 2:15

(15) Since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

2. Hebrews 11:6

(6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

3. Jeremiah 29:13

(13) You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

c. The work of the Holy Spirit

d. Every culture has a concept of god

1. Acts 17:26-27

(26) From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. (27) God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

2. The “God-sized vacuum” in each person

3. Degrees of understanding

e. Cornerstone University

What God does in terms of judging those who have never heard the gospel will be in perfect harmony with the fullness of his love, holiness and justice. When God exercises these attributes in his final judgment his actions will resound to his glory and will stand as an irrefutable testimony that he indeed is a wise, just and loving God.

#19 Now is the time to accept Christ (II Corinthians 6:2)

(2) I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation

a. Hebrews 9:27

(27) Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment