

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 9:43-48.**
- B. "Is there a difference between a "spiritual gift" and a "talent"? Tonight I will be talking about abilities, talents, and gifts.
- C. Read material from Jonathan Edwards', *Basic Writings* (p. 157,159,160,157).
- D. Such is the picture of hell that Jonathan Edwards wanted his readers to have.
- E. Jesus warned that we should fear those who would cast both body and soul into hell (Mt. 10:28).
"And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."
Hell is a place for:
 - 1. Rich and poor people.
 - 2. Strong and weak people.
 - 3. Little old ladies and growing teenagers.
 - 4. Proud masters and lowly servants....because hell is a place for **everyone** who does not obey God.
- F. Today's lesson is on hell; what kind of place it is, and who will go there.

I. THE NT DESCRIBES HELL.

- A. The Greek term for this place is *gehenna*:
 - 1. And comes from the place called the valley of Hinnom where the pagans offered their children as a human sacrifice by fire.
 - 2. It is a different place than *tartarus*, but the "quality of life" in both places is the same.
- B. There are four things mentioned consistently about hell in the NT. It is a place of:
 - 1. **Fire**:
 - a. The rich man was burning up, being in the flame (Lk. 16:23-24).
"And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment,... **24** "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.'"
 - b. Hell is a place of unquenchable fire (Mk. 9:43).
"And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,"
 - 2. **Wailing** and gnashing of teeth:
 - a. This is due to have no relief from the unquenchable fire (Mt. 13:40-42).
"Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. **41** "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, **42** and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 - b. This wailing is not an uncomfortable yell, but more of a scream!
 - c. One preacher has said, "one minute of listening to those screaming in hell would be enough to scare one into heaven!"
 - 3. **Darkness**:
 - a. God did not spare sinning angels and put them in darkness (2Pet. 2:4).
For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;
 - b. This reminds us of the bottomless abyss in Rev. 9:1-2.
And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. **2** And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.
 - c. Total darkness is a very uneasy and scary feeling.

4. **Torment.**

- a. God's wrath is mixed full strength for the unrighteous (Rev. 14:10-11).
he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. **11** "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."
- b. Men and women will want to die and will not be permitted to (Rev. 9:5-6).
And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. **6** And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them.

C. Summary: Hell is a place you want no part of. There is nothing there that is rewarding or comforting.

II. **WHO WILL BE IN HELL?**

A. Those that will be in this place of **fire** are:

1. The devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). It is prepared for him.
"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;'"
2. Those who do not know God (Heb. 11:6a; 2Th. 1:8-9).
(**Heb 11:6**) And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
(**2Th 1:8-9**) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
3. Those who practice sinful things (Rev. 21:8).
"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
4. Those that do not help others in need (**Mt. 25:41-45**).

B. Those that will be in this place of **wailing** are:

1. Those who are wicked (bad, malicious) will be there (Mt. 13:49-50).
"So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous, **50** and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
2. Those who are evil servants and hypocrites (Mt. 24:48-51).
"But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' **49** and shall begin to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; **50** the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, **51** and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there and the gnashing of teeth."

C. Those that will be in this place of **darkness** are:

1. Those who are lazy and under-achievers (Mt. 25:25-30).
And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'
26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. **27** Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. **28** Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'
- 29** "For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. **30** Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
2. Those who are unprepared (Lk. 12:16-20).
And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. **17** And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' **18** Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.'" **20** But God said to him, 'You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?'

- D. Those that will be in this place of **torment** are:
1. Those who hold grudges (Mt. 18:34-35).
“And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35** “So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”
 2. Those whose names are not written in the book of life (Rev. 20:10, 15).
And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **15** And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- E. Summary: Hell is a place you want to part of. Nothing there is rewarding or comforting.

III. THE WORST THING ABOUT HELL.

- A. But I have saved, what I think is, the worst thing about hell for last.
- B. Because, I could endure hell for a year, 10 yrs., 100 yrs., even a million yrs., if I knew that end was in sight.
- C. The worst thing about hell is that hell means banishment from God--**FOREVER**.
- D. To me, the worst thing about hell is that it is eternal, it is never ending. There is no hope of another chance or opportunity to make things right with God.
- E. How foolish it is to trade for 70-80 years of selfish pleasure for an eternity in hell.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Those that are outside of X are doomed to hell.
- B. Those who are in X, but living sinful, negligent lives are doomed to hell.
- C. The choice is clear eternal life or eternal death.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.