

Some Things in Hell the Church Needs

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Introduction: The essence of genuine faith is based upon us seeing the unseen.

- A. Because of the evidence of God's word I can know things beyond my personal experience. **(Heb 11:1)**
 - 1. Moses knew there was a God who will reward His people. **(Heb 11:27)**
 - 2. God gives everyone the opportunity to see Him. **(Rom 1:20)**
- B. As Christians we need to keep a clear view of the unseen realm.
 - 1. By having this strong confidence we will treat this world as temporary. **(Rom 8:24-25)**
 - 2. When our sight dims the world will then take over our hearts. **(2 Pt 1:9-10)**
- C. In the King James translation there are two Greek words translated "hell."
 - 1. **Hades** - **(Acts 2:27)** - *Hades* (lit. *an unseen place*); (1) the place of the dead *underworld* **(Acts 2:27)**; (2) usually in the NT as the temporary underworld prison where the souls of the ungodly await the judgment **(Lk 16:23)**
 - 2. **Gehenna**; lit. *the Valley of the Sons of Hinnom*, ...figuratively in the Gospels for *hell*, a fiery place of eternal punishment for the ungodly dead **(Mt 5:22)**.
 - 3. When one dies his final abode is sealed. He now knows clearly the reality of the previously unseen realm. We will look at the clarity of thinking in such a man.
 - 4. Consider the thoughts of the rich man of Luke 16. **(Lk 16:19-31)**

I. There are fervent prayers in hell.

- A. This prayer is from the lips of a man who in life had no time for prayer!
 - 1. Prayer is of great value to those who see the unseen. **(Lk 18:1,6-8)**
 - 2. Why does this man pray now? **(Lk 16:24,27-28)**
- B. If I believed God answers prayer, how would I pray? **(1 Jn 5:14-15)**
 - 1. I would pray for the erring brother NOW, my dear family members NOW, for a stronger faith NOW, for daily decisions NOW!
 - 2. Can this be said of us? **(1 Thess 5:17)**
 - 3. Our prayers are a good barometer of our faith. How is your faith?

II. Mercy is has an infinite value in hell.

- A. This man pleads for mercy, but he has shown no mercy in his life!
 - 1. Who do you consider to be your enemy? Do you give him any mercy?
 - 2. The mercy we show in this life will have an impact on God's mercy to us in the next life! **(Jas 2:13)**
- B. Does God's mercy have a value to you now?
 - 1. Many treat it lightly. This is a great mistake! **(Prov 1:24-29)**
 - 2. We should be moved by God's mercy in everything we do.

III. There is deep concern for the lost.

- A. This man pleads for teachers for the lost but had no time in his life for the lost. **(Lk 16:27-28)**
 - 1. In this life many are afraid to offend, or worse are too worldly to try. Are you trying to help any of the lost to know God? Can you see the unseen?
 - 2. In hell everyone will be a teacher wanting to save his family!

- B. There is no reason we cannot do what the early church did. (**Acts 5:42**)
 - 1. When we have the same kind of faith they did, we will have the same kind of action!
 - 2. The issue is not one of ability but one of faith!
 - 3. When we really believe, we will persuade men. (**2 Cor 5:10-11**)

"When I preached at a country church, a farmer didn't like sermons I preached on hell. He said, "Preach about the meek and lowly Jesus."

I said, "That's where I got my information about hell."

Most of the information that I have about hell I got from Jesus. He took the last verse of Isaiah and the garbage heap outside Jerusalem and mixed them up into the most fearful picture of eternal punishment on earth. No amount of exegetical sleight of hand can change the fact that He saw the future abode of the wicked as endless horror beyond the great gulf that was forever fixed. I believe there is a hell because he did. And on that rock I stand." - Vance Havner, Just a Preacher, p. 36.

- 4. We will find the time in our schedule when we have this kind of faith.

IV. There is a clear realization that a life in sin brings death.

A. This man now hates sin but he lived a life of indifference to it.

- 1. Satan tries to accept sin as nothing to worry about.
- 2. There was another rich man who had this attitude. (**Lk 12:16-18**)

"Once again Ted Turner has apologized for calling Christianity a religion for losers. This time the cable news network chief not only apologized but told the folks at a Baptist church luncheon "I'm looking forward to dying and going to hell because that's where I'm headed." If he only knew what it was like." -- Associated Press 6-14-90

- 3. When we are indifferent to sin we will give God the scraps!

B. How many have seen too late that a life of sin is no bargain?

V. There is a respect for God's word.

A. This man now knows the power of God's word that likely bored him during his life.

- 1. He foolishly thought a sign might do something God's word cannot.
- 2. Listen, God has given you all the signs you will get! (**1 Cor 1:22-23**)

B. How can God's word become powerful in my life?

- 1. Know for a certainty that it is true. (**1 Thess 2:13**)
- 2. Never underestimate what God's word can do in the lives of others. (**Isa 55:10-11**)
- 3. When we become more concerned about the length of the sermon than the truth of the sermon, we have lost sight of the unseen! Would the rich man ask Abraham to cut back on the length of his sermon?

Conclusion: If one could only spend five seconds in hell there would be a change of attitude!

A. God would reply to us: "If they do not hear my son neither will they be convinced if they spend five seconds in hell!"

- 1. There is no substitute for our humbling ourselves and yielding to His word.
- 2. Why do some not believe? (**Mt 11:25-27**)

B. Will this be the day you begin to see the unseen? (**Heb 9:27**)