

ETERNAL DESTINY

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the two possibilities of eternal destiny and exhort everyone to prepare for heaven.
2. Mt. 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."
 - a. Mt. 25:31-33 All nations to be judged - sheep or goats
 - b. Mt. 25:34-40 - Right hand
 - c. Mt. 25:41-46 - Left hand
3. The choices in life determine our eternal destiny.
4. We will notice some things that the Bible teaches about Heaven and Hell.

Discussion

I. HELL [What the Bible Teaches]

- A. It is a real place
 1. Some believe we should not mention hell - just Heaven
 - a. Jesus mentioned it and warned about it.
 - b. Jn.3:16 - should not Perish
 - c. Mk. 16:16 - damned = condemned
 2. Lk. 16:24b "...for I am tormented in this flame."
 3. Mt. 13:41,42
 4. Mt. 13:49,50
 5. II Thes. 1:8
 6. Many people only use the word as an "Expletive", cursing, or in jokes. There is nothing amusing in the Bible about Hell.

B. It is a physical place

1. Lk. 16 - Rich man and Lazarus.
 - a. Rich man was pleading that someone should warn his five brethren "...lest they also come into this place of torment." Lk. 16:28
 - b. This is the testimony of a man who went there.
2. Dan. 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."
 - a. Hell will be a place where people have literal physical bodies, so it must be a literal place
 - b. Awake - resurrection - - to shame and everlasting contempt
3. Some say hell is on earth
 - a. Not the hell in the Bible
 - b. Righteous are here on earth - but will not be in hell
4. Meaning of word - "Near Jerusalem there was a deep narrow gorge in the mountains, called Gehenna, or the Valley of Hinnom. In the times of Jewish idolatry this valley was tainted with the blood of their innocent children, which were 'burned with fire for burnt offerings to Baal.' [Jer.19:1-6] The deepest depths of human guilt and misery were here combined; the guilt of men who compelled the sacrifice, and the misery of the children who were burned, and of the mothers from whose breasts they were torn to be cast into the fiery furnace. When the abominations were suppressed, the most horrible associations were connected with that place. To the superstitious Jew it was a resort of ghosts and hobgoblins, and to the pious it was a place of unspeakable horror. There was no other word in Jewish speech so full of this meaning, and this word Jesus seized upon as the name of that final state where the wicked are enveloped in fire and darkness and continual weeping. He called it Gehenna, and this when translated into English, is Hell." [J.W. McGarvey]

5. Jn. 5:28-29
6. Mt. 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

C. It is a place of fire - Lk. 16:24 "...tormented in this flame."

1. Mt. 13:24-42 parable of tares
2. Rev. 21:10 & 14,15 - lake of fire

D. Hell is a place of punishment

1. Mt. 25:41 - originally prepared for the punishment of the devil and his angels
2. Ungodly will go to this place for punishment
 - a. II Pet. 2:9
 - b. II Thes. 1:9
 - c. Mt. 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment..."
3. Punishment = penalty, vengeance, retribution

E. Hell is a place for the wicked and the Lost

1. Rev. 21:8 "But the fearful and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolators and liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death."
2. Mt. 13:41,42
3. Devil and his angels - Mt. 25:41

F. Hell is everlasting

1. Mt. 25:46 - everlasting punishment -- punishment eternal
2. Everlasting - without end

G. Hell is described in the Bible as:

- a. [1] a Real place,
- b. [2] a Physical place
- c. [3] a place of Fire
- d. [4] A place of Punishment
- e. [5] a place for the Wicked and the Lost and
- f. [6] a place that is Everlasting.

II. HEAVEN [What the Bible Teaches]

A. It is a real place

1. Mt.6:9 "Our Father which art in heaven."
2. Jn. 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."
 - a. Jesus came from heaven
 - b. If he knew that there was not a place called heaven then he would have told us
3. Heb. 11:10 tells about Abraham who looks for a city "...which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."
4. II Pet. 3:13 "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

B. Description of heaven

1. Filled with mansions
 - a. Jn. 14:1-2
 - b. We cannot imagine how beautiful heaven will be
2. Like a bride
 - a. Rev. 21:2
 - b. Looks her very best
3. Made of costly materials
 - a. Rev. 21: 18-19
 - b. Gates made of pearls - v. 21
 - c. Streets of Gold
4. Place free from sorrow
 - a. Rev. 21:4
 - b. No more tears
5. Eternal
 - a. Mt. 25:46 - life eternal
 - b. Rm. 6:22-23 - everlasting life, eternal life

C. Who will enter and who will not

1. Those who will not enter
 - a. Rev. 21:27 - anything that defileth - makes a lie
 - b. Rev. 21:8
 - c. Mt. 7:23 - those that work iniquity
 - d. Mt. 25:41-43 - the people who would not help others

2. Those who will enter

- a. Rev. 21:27 "But only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."
- b. Rev. 7:13,14 - they who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.
- c. The faithful - Rev. 2:10

D. Heaven is described in the Bible as: [1] A real place, [2] A beautiful place, [3] and a place where only the righteous will dwell.

CONCLUSION

1. Hell

- a. Prepared for the Devil and his angels
- b. God does not desire for any human to be there - Jn. 3:16
- c. But if we die in our sins we will be in that place of punishment forever.

2. Heaven

- a. Christ has prepared heaven for all who will obey
- b. Heb. 5:9 "...he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
- c. Jesus went to Golgotha so we could miss hell and be in heaven.

3. The choice you make in life will determine where you will be!

4. Are you ready?? You must obey the Gospel:

Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Baptized for remission of Sins

5. Some day you will say I would give 10 million worlds if I had one more opportunity.